



SUMMER 1992

ISSUE 32

## UNIFYING STAR WARS FANDOM

A Panel Discussion Held at MediaWest\*Con 12

Thanks to Tim Blaes for Providing the Tape

Panel Members: Cheree Cargill, Melea Fisher, Pat Grant, Judith Yuenger

("Aud." indicates comment from audience. Individual names will be used if recognized.)

CC: Hi, everyone, and welcome to the STARKY & HUTCH panel. (laughter) Well, obviously, this is the STAR WARS panel so if you're in the wrong place, stay anyway because we'd like you in the fandom. We might get you interested.

PG: What is the title of this?

CC: "Unifying STAR WARS Fandom", which we kind of started last year. We discovered that there were still lots and lots and lots of STAR WARS fans out there but we were all broken up into little groups. And nobody knew about anybody else, so we decided we would try to get us all together in one big group again and have lots of fun and I think we've been fairly successful over the past year.

PG: Unification, Part 3. The Next Generation.

CC: So, I suppose we should introduce ourselves to those who don't know us. I'm Cheree

Cargill and I do SOUTHERN ENCLAVE and A TREMOR IN THE FORCE.

JY: I'm Judith Yuenger and I run the Star Awards.

MF: I'm Melea Fisher and I publish ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH.

PG: I'm Pat Grant and run Forces of the Empire and we publish a newsletter called BOUND BY THE FORCE and a zine called IMPERIUM which I promise will be out by next year. Now that we have Arwen helping us with it. (Recognizes Arwen Rosenbaum in the audience.)

AR: Well, then I'll be helping you and Melea.

JY: And me!

CC: Arwen should stand up and take a bow.

PG: I think Arwen has become fandom's

typesetter. "I can do typesetting. Does anybody need help?" She'll learn!

MF: Never volunteer!

AR: Stop me before I volunteer again!

PG: And we also have a new zine, TALES FROM THE CANTINA, which is available this year. On the dealer's table, if we ever get it open, or in the cantina which, by the way, we are running a STAR WARS auction. Anybody's welcome to come in and go through the auction. It's silent bids. There's a lot of really nice items in there. You're welcome.

CC: Well, I don't really know what we're... Obviously, we got together and discussed what we're going to talk about.

MF: Actually, we just opened the program book and were reading through it and said, "Oh, I'm on a panel!"

PG: I don't know about the rest of you but I have found that the last year, ever since the last MediaWest when we kind of started this, "Oh, so that's who you are; well, let's keep in touch," I've gotten letters from all over the world this last year. I got a letter from two different Italian clubs who want to correspond with us. One who does something similar to what we do with personas and doing correspondence back and forth in character, and they want to start up an interclub relationship with our club. And a club out in Australia that we heard from and it's like there's this blossoming and it's so wonderful. You know, a few years ago, it was like nobody wanted to mention anybody else's group or zine and now it's wonderful. It's really great.

CC: It's like we had gotten to the point of, "Oh, role-playing. I don't want to talk to them! They're those weirdos."

MF: Yeah, they write those weird letters in that—

CC: I think it really has come together in the last year. There was a tremendous response as Pat said, really, from all over the world. We heard from a lot of people we didn't know were out there. And I know every issue of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE seems to have new names in it. New fans coming in

that have found some group and, like most fandoms, we're so interconnected, it's almost like networking. Somebody reads a zine and sees somebody else's name and decides they'll write and it goes from there.

Aud: So the problem really wasn't so much that STAR WARS fandom is "dying", it just lost communication.

CC: Just lost communication. Yeah.

JY: Everybody was off in different sections.

PG: Fragmented.

Ann Birmstiel:

You know, I used to take Marion McChesney's COMMUNICATIONS CONSOLE but it had a different list of zines. But then she quit about three years ago and I kind of fell out of it and then last year I picked up a flyer for ZINE SCENE and I found out about SOUTHERN ENCLAVE from there.

CC: I got a letter from someone—I can't remember who—who had done illustrations for STAR WARS zines back in the mid-80's and then kind of got out of fandom and the people they had been illoing for had also gotten out of fandom, and that was their only link. So, this person had been searching for five or six years for some way to get back into fandom and they finally found SOUTHERN ENCLAVE or HIBERNATION SICKNESS or one of the other zines and said, "Hey, I'm not the last living STAR WARS fan in the world. There are still others out there."

Z.P. Florian:

If I may say, shouldn't we have a kind of a newsletter, something, maybe maximum two pages, that costs barely more than the mailing, at least once or twice a year, to go out to everybody in the whole world who ever wrote a fanzine.

MF: (to JY) Well, I think your Star Awards go out to just about everybody, don't they?

JY: Yes.

CC: We tried to compile as many names as possible and get them on a mailing list.

ZP: Yes, get a mailing list. Mail out—



*Cheree Cargill, Melea Fisher, Pat Grant*

JY: It's 300 people long.

ZP: --who's seeking contributions, what is available, what is for sale. But, like, I know anything in the whole world that comes out in SOUTHERN ENCLAVE or HIBERNATION SICKNESS. I don't know a blooming thing about Forces of the Empire. Nothing. Nothing that they have for sale, what they're doing, what kind of zines they're doing. And I always have more stories than zines. So, it's not that I'm not looking. It's that I don't know who to look for.

Ming Wathne:

Well, obviously, this has been our problem, which I've been speaking about for two years. And we are trying, all of us, in different situations. All those zines that we're putting out now should have advertisements for other zines.

JY: Which they didn't do before.

MW: Which they haven't done for quite a long time. And with the Library and the Star Awards, we were also more or less planning to make a cross-reference and this is building within the area itself of artists, costume-makers, story-writers, so that people can cross-reference and find out who is doing what, but it's going to take a lot of effort not only on our part but also on the guys that do the writing. Let us know what you want to do, as well.

CC: Ming ought to come on up here. She's one of the—

Panelists:

Yeah. Come on up here. Get up here!  
(Applause)

MW: (Joins panelists at table) I should have known better. Well, basically, that's it. We have been hollering—all of us—for a couple of years about communication and it wasn't until I pulled my blaster and said, "Okay, you do it!" (Indicates JY) This gal is the most incredibly concise person you'll ever want to know. She has everything but the eye teeth and this is the kind of thing we need. But we also need input. Lots and lots of input.

CC: I think Ming and Judith both deserve a hand for all they have done in the last year.  
(Applause)

PG: I've got one. (Pulls a dismembered hand from a bag)

MF: Yeah, she's got Luke's in there.

PG: We just roasted Luke Skywalker. The Empire is returning some things to him that he left behind.

JY: Oh, I'm sorry I missed that!

Tim: I had a LoC to SOUTHERN ENCLAVE that got gobbled by the mail and I had suggested the name the "Antilles Award". That way you could give the winners a "Wedgie." (Boos and hisses)

PG: Anyone have a blaster?

CC: Tina had a question.

Tina Bentrup:  
Well, what are the rumors about what George is doing? Is he working on the movie or what? I mean, can we--

PG: George says the same thing. "When I get through with my present project, I will start working on the next STAR WARS series."

CC: In other words, the movie will be out when we're standing in line waiting for tickets.

TB: Something that Maggie wrote in SOUTHERN ENCLAVE about a rumor about how much the film was budgeted for and about a set, a miniature of the Imperial City that was 1/6th of a mile long--

CC: That came off, I think, the Prodigy bulletin board.

Arwen:  
I saw some stuff on Internet that said some special effects shops had closed down all outside work and were working on one--

CC: Yeah, that rumor's been going around for about a year.

PG: There was a definite rumor that I heard a couple of years ago from... The rumor came from a person that worked for Lucasfilm...for what that's worth...that Lucas, at that time had just finished the script and they were looking into casting. This was two years ago. Now the rumor's going around that ILM has shut down and is working on one particular project. The timing on that is just about right if the original rumor had any truth to it at all. We might be looking at something within the next year or two.

ZP: Something must be going on because I walked into the Dalton's Bookstore and they have this display. They are selling all the STAR WARS books, all the Han Solo books--

PG: Yeah, everything's being revamped right now.

CC: Circumstantial evidence, everything sort of points to it.

ZP: The new Dark Horse comics.

PG: There's no definite proof, but everything is pointing to it.

Aud: I don't know if I'm the only one who's heard this, but a couple of years ago, I heard that there was as definite 1997 release date.

CC: Yeah, that seems to be the date.

Aud: I heard that they were going to start working on it before then, but it would come out in 1997. I haven't heard that that has changed.

Aud2: That would be 20 years then.

Aud3: I work in a bookstore and the reason they're out is the new HEIR TO THE EMPIRE sequel. The latest children's books to come out and this is their way of reintroducing... So, they've rereleased all of the original and they're redone the Han Solo books because they're out of print now. So that's why. It's got nothing to do with the movie.

Tim: Sorry, but if the market can sustain these reprints, that's maybe not much but some additional impetus to continue until the next movie's out.

Aud3: But it's got nothing to do with it.

MW: Well, there are two things you have to keep in mind about Hollywood and Lucas. Number one, he is a great one for hitting things when they're hot. Number two, Hollywood is Hollywood and can you figure a better way of building mercenary—if you want to put it that way—points for books, magazines, new this and that, than saying there's going to be another picture? Keep that in mind until you actually see the ad in the paper for the picture at the movie house, don't get too excited about it because this goes on all the time out there.

Aud: Well, about the film, I think you have to watch VARIETY and the trade publications.

CC: I think that's true, that probably VARIETY or HOLLYWOOD REPORTER or even the LA TIMES would have more concrete information--

Aud: Did it say anything about the idea that they were going to do all three movies at once and then edit it and put them out one after

the other?

MF: Yeah, I think that's what I'd heard.

Aud: For 1996 or 1997 release, for the first trilogy.

CC: As someone said, "May we all live long enough to see Episode 9."

MF: Yeah, we'll all be geriatric.

Aud: Yeah, they won't have to worry about old age makeup.

MF: I don't know if they can afford Harrison Ford's price anymore.

Tim: Then there was the red herring that was a red herring—"Red Tails." We thought "Red Tails" was going to be a "Blue Harvest" but actually it turned out to be a real movie—darn it!

CC: Which I haven't seen in the theaters either! I don't know if that one ever got—

Aud: Like SLIPSTREAM? Did anyone ever see that?

Aud2: I'm a new fan and I don't know where to—

MF: If you're a new fan, probably your best bet is if you pick up some zines here and write to those editors and say, "Can you tell me about anybody—"

Aud2: Do you have an APA, like the other ones have?

MF: No.

CC: I think that was kind of like what Z.P. was talking about, that it would be a good idea, probably, to start an APA going.

Aud2: Who do you send somebody to who goes, "I want to know more about STAR WARS fandom"? Who do you send them to?

CC: Probably SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, I guess.

MW: SOUTHERN ENCLAVE is probably the best place.

Aud2: I just wasn't sure where to go to because I'm new to fandom in general. And I can't pick up a zine and go, okay, I—

CC: SOUTHERN ENCLAVE is probably geared more to fandom than say, BOUND BY THE FORCE, or some of the others. HIBERNATION SICKNESS is—

Aud: Well, aren't you writing the Library?

Aud2: Yes, I'm writing the Library.

JY: Ming has all the fanzines.

CC: We never introduced Ming. Ming Wathne runs the Corellian Archives which kind of started out with Maggie Nowakowska as kind of a lending library of STAR WARS zines and they ran it for about a year and kind of got bogged down, I think, and had to give it up and Ming courageously jumped in and took it over, and it has now really turned into an archive project. Not just STAR WARS zines, but everything.

Aud: Has anybody been here since STAR WARS came out? I mean, how old is anybody in fandom? I've been in fandom since—

CC: Well, Mary and I [indicates Mary Urhausen in audience] are two of the dinosaurs here. I've actually been in fandom since about '72. I was in STAR TREK fandom until about '78 and I went through a burnout period and then in '81, I came back in.

MW: One WARPED SPACE zine said, "Contains no STAR WARS."

Aud: When did they start doing STAR WARS in WARPED SPACE?

CC: Oh, I don't know. I think Bev Clark did one of the first STAR WARS zines—SKYWALKER. I think she probably had the first pure STAR WARS zine out.

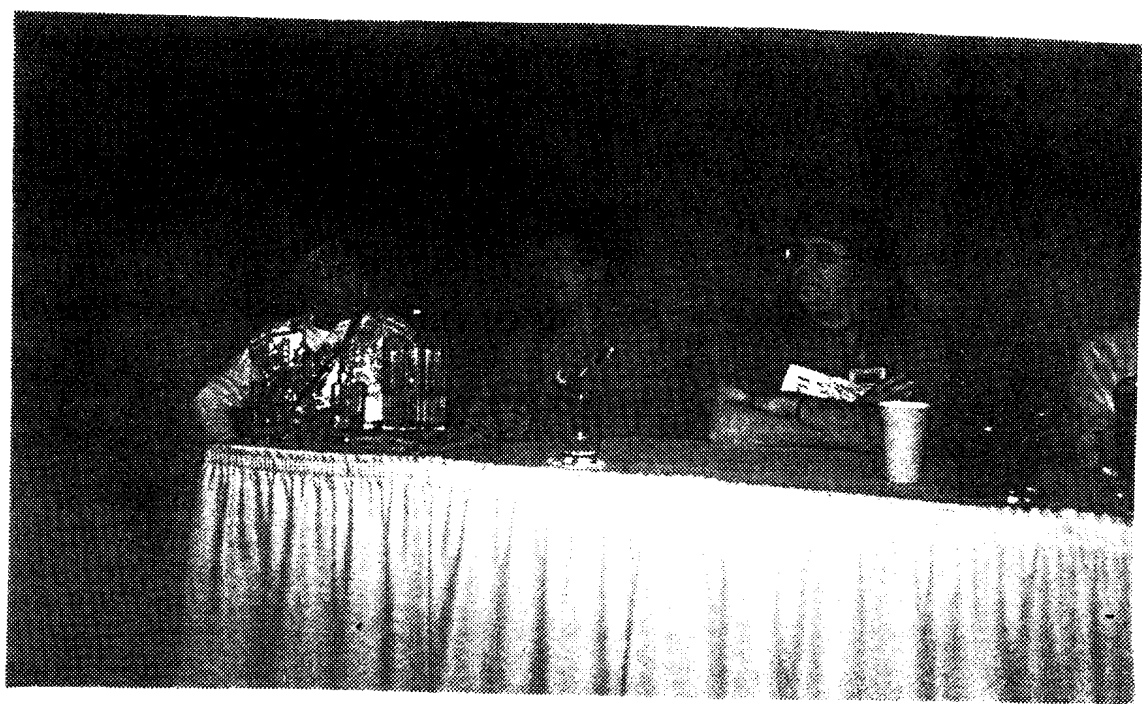
Tim: There was this really obscure, nearly letterzine that came out before that called HYPERSPACE.

CC: And there was a letterzine called ALDERAAN.

Aud: And JUNDLAND WASTES.

CC: JUNDLAND WASTES came out after ALDERAAN.

Tim: Because the thing is, HYPERSPACE did run fiction and poetry. It wasn't just a total news zine. They published my first stuff in there.



*Ming Wathne, Judith Yuenger, Cheree Cargill*

- MW: If I remember correctly, that was the one that got slapped down.
- Tim: No, not HYPERSPACE. It was DARK LORD.
- MW: No, this was earlier than that. There were six issues and they had to discontinue because of Lucasfilm. It came out for six issues, then had to quit producing because they were told they were doing a "no-no".
- Tim: I don't understand. What "no-no"?
- PG: In the very beginning of STAR WARS fandom, George Lucas did not understand fandom and there was one group in Florida--and I'm not sure where the one you're talking about--
- MW: Same one.
- PG: That they sent the FBI into these people's houses, the FBI confiscated all of their materials, all of their punching machines, everything, for copyright infringement laws. This was before they got more specific in the laws and what was allowable and what was not. And Lucas took them to court and sued them.
- Tim: I didn't hear about this.
- CC: This was the very, very beginning.
- Tim: That seems like that would have drizzled out. Surely we would have found out about that.
- CC: Well, I don't think any of us were in fandom, I mean STAR WARS fandom, at the time.
- MF: This was like, probably, '78. Right after the first movie.
- PG: Yeah, right in the first year. I think it was like probably one of the first ones. The movie came out and they went, "Oh, this is great," and the zine came out and Lucas over-reacted. And it was after that that some fan groups approached him and they sat down and said, "This is what fandom's about."
- Aud: You used to send issues of your fanzine to him.
- MW: Yeah, that's where the beginning to the Library came from.
- Aud: And he'd pay you for them, too.
- PG: Yeah, we sent him all our club newsletters and everything.
- Aud: Does he ever write back?
- PG: I never got anything from him. We got stuff from Maureen Garret all the time.
- Tim: I knew that this man does not have time to read these things.
- PG: He had his own inner police, I think. Fandom police.

MF: "You might want to see this one, George."

PG: I think he looked through some of the stuff, because one of the letters I got from Maureen, she said, "Oh, and by the way, George found the cartoon on page such and such rather amusing." Now, I don't know if he actually read everything or just glanced through them, but she did make a remark--

Tim: Gary Kurtz once let slip something-- Now I don't think he wanted to be in a position where he wanted to admit that he read anything, but he let it slip out, just in casual conversation, that he did. By the way, you ever hardly hear about Gary Kurtz anymore. Where is he?

Aud: I think he was involved in that horrible SLIPSTREAM thing.

CC: I was just thinking, talking to Melea, about '84 or '85, Jeanine Hennig was working on an outline for a professional book on fandom and had not actually written it, but had just done an outline, maybe a chapter for a proposal and had sent it to Lucasfilm for permission, and she got back a very quick, very curt "cease and desist" letter from them.

Tim: Wait a minute-- What?

CC: Yeah!

Tim: How could they tell her to stop doing a non-fiction book about fandom?

CC: They did.

Tim: NO!

CC: He did. Well, he threatened legal action.

PG: Because in the book there would be used the words STAR WARS--

Tim: You can't do that!

CC: He did it.

PG: Well, the things he might have copyrights on--anything he has particular copyrights on--

Tim: He can't stop anything that is not--

MF: He can write a letter saying, "I don't want you doing this." And she can take it anyway she wants. And, at the time, since she put a zine out--

Aud: What's this about David Prowse coming to MediaWest?

PG: There's a good chance that we may be able to get Dave to come here. I finally got a letter from him a few weeks ago and he's really enthusiastic about it. We explained to him in our letters that this isn't going to be your normal average convention. You would be coming here as a member of the con. There are no celebrities at MediaWest. As far as the schedule, we'd give you the program book like everyone else and you'd pick out what you want to do or don't do. And, you know, if you want to run a panel, you can contact the people and schedule a panel, but everything would be up to you. And, he's really excited about it. One of the reasons is that he hasn't been invited to a convention in the United States in several years and he misses the United States fans. He's looking forward to it. So, it's looking really good. I've been told that might have a donation for the cost of his travel expenses which would help tremendously. Somebody else suggested that we get Mark Hamill at the same. I said, "One at a time, one at a time."

Aud: I see a trend toward new zines and new fans. You know, a lot of the old fans are back.

CC: Exactly.

PG: Well, I think a lot of it has to do with that there was a big period of time where everybody was saying, "Why are you into that? STAR WARS is dead." The problem we were talking about-- the lack of communication. People lost their sources and didn't know where to go, so they got into other things. Now, with the resurgence and the pickup of the communications lines here, they're starting to find out, all these things are still here--good--and getting back into it.

ZP: There are thousands of people out there who have no idea that there are such things as fanzines. I got into the Prodigy network and 14-year-old kids are talking about it. And they are asking, "What's a fanzine?"

And I have this young girl, my god-daughter, in her classroom of 35 people, two of the boys, 13-year-old boys, are talking STAR WARS—they have no idea there is such a thing as fanzines. I mean, there are lots of people out there who don't know and they would be interested, they would want to know. Most of the fanzines might be out of their range financially but something like SOUTHERN ENCLAVE or HIBERNATION SICKNESS, something that's not that expensive, would definitely be interesting for them and once a year or so a major fanzine. But I don't know how to get to those people.

MF: They'd probably enjoy the fan club, too. The Forces of the Empire.

Aud: Well, STAR TREK had the Welcommittee.

CC: Yeah, it's still going on.

Tim: Would the Library qualify as the Star Wars Welcommittee?

CC: Well, no, not really. I don't think so.

MW: I think that something like that in STAR WARS definitely would be an advantage, but first of all, we've got to consolidate what we have and spread out with what we have and let people know we are still alive. That's the main thing.

PG: And I think we've got to start in getting something like that with what Judy's doing. I mean, she's compiling a list of everybody. And everyone's beginning to know she's kind of a central information point and possibly something like that can bloom out of what she's starting.

CC: Whatever happened to the information center? Not the awards, but the—

JY: Well, it's there. I've started on it, but you don't realize. There's just tons of stuff to be done. And I've got 300 names on the list of STAR WARS fans. Not all of them ever respond but I have some clubs in England, Germany, Italy, Australia... So, one of these days...I wanted to get these awards done because this right now was the massive thing. Once we get that done, I'm going to start back on that again.

CC: You know, I think one of the most interesting things I've heard recently about STAR WARS fandom came out of HIBERNATION SICKNESS, and Lisa and Lorrie and Melanie had been contacted by a group of Russian fans. STAR WARS has just—in the past year—been shown in Russia. It's really because it was considered imperialistic, capitalistic propaganda. It was considered by the Soviet government as Cold War propaganda. That the Empire was the Soviet Union and they were the bad guys and so these people are absolutely brand-spanking-new to STAR WARS, at all! But it's got a fair following there.

MW: That person has a couple of questions—

Aud: Why don't you put an ad in STARLOG and other publications? You wouldn't have to put it in every month but if you put it in a couple of times a year—

CC: A lot of people do.

PG: We've put Forces of the Empire in there a couple of times, but it's been a while back. It wasn't a big response but we received about five members out of it. But that was five members we wouldn't have had. It's free advertising.

CC: I've never advertised in STARLOG because I don't have the time to devote to the mail that would come in. It's all I can do to answer the mail I've got right now.

JY: Well, we could put that in. That would be no big deal. We could put as the Star Wars Fandom File, because that's what we originally named it.

Aud: I know you do SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. Who does HIBERNATION SICKNESS?

CC: Lisa Thomas is the editor and Lorrie Cherry and Melanie Guttierrez...

ZP: You can find flyers for Melanie all over the place. For ANOTHER SKY... which is her fanzine. The second issue is coming out... You can get her address from the flyer. HIBERNATION SICKNESS is very decently priced and lists all the fanzines that are coming up. It also has stories and poetry and...

CC: HIBERNATION SICKNESS is a great little zine. It comes out quarterly and they have a real



fun sense of humor. It's a funzine.

Aud: Well, you were talking about kids, but I found a couple of people in our office fancy themselves writers and we just started talking about science fiction and they're fans, and I said, "Well, do you guys know about fanzines?" "What?" I said, "Fanzines." And they said, "Tell me more about it." And I said, "Well, that's where people learn to write, where they hone their skills." And they were fascinated. So, talk to your co-workers. It was like opening up a whole new world, I mean their eyes just lit up.

ZP: I went into one of the colleges and I walk through the planetarium and there sits this lady who is talking about the stars, and she has this wonderful tissue box--Yoda. So, it turns out she's a STAR WARS collector. She doesn't know anybody. She thinks she's the only one in the whole world.

JY: There are a lot of fans like that.

MW: That's why we're trying to open this up.

Joyce Yasner?

I think one of the problems is that it's really very hard to do a convention. I mean, I don't even know if Lucas will let you do a convention, but doing a con and bringing the people in, it's very expensive.

CC: I went to a small convention in Dallas a few months ago that had Brent Spiner as the guest and it cost twenty bucks a day to get in.

Aud: A Creation Con?

CC: No. I nearly fell over because, used to, \$15 would get you the whole weekend at a convention and now it's \$20 a day.

PG: Yeah, I've seen a couple that are like \$45 or \$50 for the weekend but it's like because they're trying to bring in all these, like they might have six stars coming in and they're trying to cover them.

MW: Or, another problem with your convention is --with the exception of this one here--very often the fanzine room is next to the toilet, three floors down, and--they don't know you're there, they don't know what you're

doing, and they don't know what-- We've got to push a little more on these conventions that are being put together to say, "Hey! We're--"

JY?: You do the con! That's the point. In STAR TREK, we did the convention. And we had to bring in the people to pay for the hotel, and eventually the STAR TREK guests wind up and decided they wanted money to come. But initially they came for free. Everybody. I mean, Leonard Nimoy would just walk in the door--"Hi, here I am." And we'd go, "Oh, my God--" and we'd try to hussle him off before he got trampled. I mean, they would just show up. Or they'd call up and, you know, kids would answer the phone, "Hi, this is Lt. Uhura here," and they'd go, "This is Mr. Spock" and the kid would go-- plunk! and fall out! But that's the way it was when we first were doing STAR TREK. I think the first was in '72.

MW: Well, obviously it's not going to be that way anymore.

JY? Well, these professionally run cons are very bad.

CC: I will plug another fan-run con that I think is up and coming and is worth going to and that's Revelcon in Houston.

MW: Yeah, yeah.

CC: I've gone the last two years and it's kind of increased in quality and in membership each year and it's almost like MediaWest-South.

Aud: Well, if you go to Revelcon, is there going to be enough STAR WARS activities there to make it worth your while?

CC: Well, let's make STAR WARS activities!

MW: That's what we're doing. Cheree and I were there this year.

PG: That's what's happened here. I mean, at MediaWest\*Con a few years ago, there wasn't a whole...I mean, there was a lot going on, there were a lot of fans here, but there wasn't a whole lot of organized things going on and, in the last couple of years, Lori has told me that we are now the largest organized group at the con.

CC: Three years ago, there was one STAR WARS panel and it was on Monday afternoon. And I missed it because my plane left at 12:00.

Aud: Here?

CC: Here. And so, it's like, the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

MW: And we can really squeak!

MF: Well, we pull so many Forces of the Empire club members here that's a big part of that group. I mean, there's like 50 people just playing in the blaster battle.

Aud: I think fandom just fragmented--

MW: That's true. Fandom did fragment and that's one reason why it's much more important for us to connect with other STAR WARS fans.

MF: When is Revelcon?

CC: It's mid-March. It's like spring break. The second or third weekend in March.

MW: --come on, join us!

Aud: I have my own pet philosophical theories about why STAR WARS split up. Used to be, a lot of people were wildly Han Solo fans but then they found out, alas and alack, Han Solo was not the center of the STAR WARS universe and they went kind of "blah!" and-- and okay, this is cool, we get it, and that's what happened. STAR WARS is also funny because it's not morally black and white, it's sort of like somewhere in the middle, it's making its own path and people have a hard time dealing with that. A lot of people got freaked out by JEDI because they thought Vader should be thrown up against the wall and plugged full of holes and Han was going to be the last of the Jedi or whatever. And it didn't turn out that way. It's so ambiguous.

Aud2: That's ironic because I think initially there were kind of presenting, STAR WARS was presented as being kind of black and white. And it's progressively gray.

Aud: STAR WARS got grayer with EMPIRE and then really gray with...

ZP: The second part [DARK FORCE RISING] with the full approval of--Luke Skywalker kneels in front of the Emperor and says, "I am going to join the Dark Side."

Aud: Yeah, we believe that.

ZP: Yeah, and I have some beachfront property in Arizona!

MW: Well, whatever the individual fan feels about STAR WARS is important to a certain degree and and that's why we are a very large group with a very varied interpretation about what STAR WARS is and what it means to us, and, okay, I'm a dyed-in-the-banthafur Han fan--I love the lad, but I can also see the Luke things, I see all the other stories, Leia, there's some really far out stuff there. On all levels.

Tim: Fannish Roscharch test.

PG: Yeah.

MW: If we really like the idea of STAR WARS, we've got to work for the whole thing, not just--

Aud: And STAR WARS is interesting because, first of all, you've got to know your politics and your history. You have to really have a grasp on politics to follow it. I mean, STAR TREK, you throw out the politics and, who cares? It's just guys in a ship who fly around and have adventures. That's fine. But STAR WARS is very political. And, moral and philosophical and, there's all kinds of things going on.

Tina Bentrup:  
Sort of getting back to what we were talking about before about other cons, for me, living from one MediaWest to another is really excruciating. I live down in Tennessee and I don't know any other STAR WARS fans within 200 miles. They're over in North Carolina ...but there are a lot of STAR WARS people in the D.C. area. I mean, that's one of the central East Coast locations. Wouldn't it be nice if we could all get together at the opposite end of the year from MediaWest?

CC: I know most fans are probably like I am, financially. You save all year to come to MediaWest. Who can go to twelve cons a year? I know I started going to Revelcon because Houston is relatively near to Dallas

and you can drive there. Like Ming and Kathy Agel came in this year from out of town and there were a couple of out of town people last year. And it's growing. There are more out of town people coming.

Aud: When is it?

CC: It's mid-March. Like spring break weekend. Around March 15th.

Aud: But if you spend all your money then, that's not much time to save--

MW: Well, it's a long ways from being a MediaWest. It's trying to develop itself as a zine con. It's doing a very good job.

CC: Yeah, it's a very, very small con.

MW: For instance, I live in Santa Barbara, California. The people out there are not coming to MediaWest in many cases for the simple reason that it's impossible; it costs too much. It's expensive to come here. If we could develop a smaller con out there--

JY?: Are you sure Bjo Trimble isn't running any cons out there?

MW: No, she hasn't been running anything out there for years. The closest thing we have to a really nice con out there is LosCon but it's a generalized con. Plus MediaWest has had fifteen years. And fifteen years from now, it may be like MediaWest.

CC: Revelcon's only been going for a couple of years. So I think they have about 200 people that come.

JY?: See the problem is having a con over a weekend when a lot of people can come. We used to have the STAR TREK cons over George Washington's birthday weekend. The last one wound up... Lincoln's birthday was celebrated at the same time so we had a five day convention. Which was a blowout con in '76 and we collapsed in a heap after that. But, yeah, you have to find a weekend. Right now, in New York, the wretched creeps that run Creation have Thanksgiving weekend. They have Thanksgiving Day weekend, which is a logical weekend in New York. Of course, they're always petrified they'll have a snowstorm.

CC: Well, that's what's nice about Revelcon. Houston is so far south it's almost tropical.

MW: It's a good location.

MF: And it's easy to fly into Houston. You can't fly non-stop into Lansing like you could there.

CC: This year Revelcon was held at a hotel that was just a stone's throw from the airport.

MF: They could fly right into Houston for real cheap.

CC: But, really, it's a fun little con and I would advocate anyone come who can. Since it is teeny-tiny with 200 or so, it's a real relaxacon and it's small enough to get everybody in one room and schmooze together if you want to.

PG: And it's like Melea said, MediaWest started out real tiny like that, too, and in fifteen years, that convention may be another MediaWest.

MF: And you can say, "I was there at the beginning."

CC: But I'll tell you, I have been very impressed. The art show is the quality--and I mean some of the same people--Barbara Fister-Liltz and Karen River--that come down to it. But even people you've never heard of have superior art in it. This year, the dealer's room was very big. I saw zines in there I had only ever heard of but had never actually seen. There was an incredible selection and not just STAR TREK and STAR WARS and DOCTOR WHO--every fandom you can think of was represented.

[This is an edited version of a tape transcription of one of the principal SW panels at this year's MediaWest. Many thanks to Tim Blaes for providing the tape and for the accompanying photos. I would like to state that none of the panelists have any connection with Revelcon and were only expressing their personal opinions. Anyone interested in learning more about Revelcon should contact Candace Pulleine, P. O. Box 980744, Houston, Texas 77098-0744, (713) 526-5625.]

# MEDIAWEST\*CON 12 REPORT

by Judith Yuenger

The hotel was very nice—actually much bigger than the old one. The staff were, at first, a little overwhelmed by the volume of people. Service in the hotel restaurant was slow! Outside of the restaurant, they did try very hard to please everyone. I talked to a lot of the staff and they were having a ball—guess several of them stayed after work to watch the goings on.

The dealer's room was a delight! Very large so that they had plenty of room to make aisles between the tables wide enough so that you weren't constantly crushed.

At the other hotel, they had all the first floor rooms for people dealing out of their rooms which was very convenient. They didn't have this here and I missed it. There were people dealing out of their rooms, but they were scattered all over the place. It seemed to me that there weren't as many of them as there were last year, although my mind may be playing me tricks because I bought 52 zines last year and 45 this year, so there must have been plenty of places to buy zines!

All of the rooms for the panels and meetings were very large and well ventilated. Last year, Forces of the Empire meetings (and most of the SW stuff) were held in a small airless room. Forces of the Empire rented a series of rooms that were just across from the hotel registration desk that was just great for their needs. They had a room which had sofas and a bar and that was the Cantina. They had several other rooms off that which they used for a silent auction and the Rebel Breakfast.

The blaster battle was great (I sat in the hall smoking and watching since a lot of it seemed to be outside my room). They had to quit because a guy down the hall from me complained because he was selling out of his room (and half the hallway). Seems he was worried about the stuff he had in the hallway.

The art auction was nice, although I don't think that they had as much nice stuff as they did last year. Still don't like their system much. There were a couple of things that I would have liked to have bid on but, with their rule of anything with more than 1 bid going to auction, I wouldn't bid on them because I don't want to spend my evening sitting at the auction. It just takes too darned long.

The masquerade was okay. One of the neatest costumes was a guy who had made a Borg costume complete with sounds and a speaker that allowed his voice to sound inhuman. Most of the best costumes that I saw weren't in the masquerade. One lady had a beautiful replica of a Victorian costume complete with parasol and hat and button boots. It was really beautiful!

Now to the best part! The STAR AWARDS. I did the announcing in the Corellian costume I had made. Then we played the music from the ceremony in SW and Melea Fisher (as Princess Leia) and Pat Grant (as an Imperial) marched in and up to where I was. We started with the 1990 awards. Since the winners had previously been announced, there were no surprises. Of course, the fun part of all this is that the audience really got into this and were making all sorts of comments. The last awards that were given for 1990 were to the three groups/clubs [SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, Forces of the Empire, and Sons and Daughters of the Force]. Pat was giving out the certificates and Melea was putting the medals around their necks. Of course, it was really funny when Melea put the medal around Pat's neck (for Forces of the Empire) and the audience went wild saying it was history in the making. Probably the only time that Princess Leia would give a medal to an Imperial! And, with that, Princess Leia tried to strangle the Imperial with the medal!

There was much anticipation for the 1991 awards, as no one but Arwen Rosenbaum (who printed the certificates) and I knew who the

winners were! It was sort of like Oscar night! From the list, I pretty much knew who was there and who wasn't. There were two winners at the con who didn't attend the ceremony and I tried hard to get them to come without coming right out and saying they had won an award! Melea won a medal for cover artist and Pat put the medal on her or at least tried to—her buns kept getting in the way! Everyone had a super time and half a dozen or so people came up to me and asked if I was going to make this a yearly thing!

I went into the dealer's room after the

banquet to give Kathy Agel and Pat Nussman their awards. Someone had already told Kathy and she nearly jumped over the table to hug me! Pat wasn't there but I gave her medal to her friend. It was nice to see the certificates adorning the tables of those who won and everyone wore their medals for the rest of the day.

Catherine Churko had said to me in a letter, "A good ritual is a tonic for the mind and spirit," and believe me, it was! I am hoping that it will give SW a shot in the arm and, of course, I hope that it will boot most people in the butt to vote for the 1992 awards!

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## 1991 STAR AWARDS

Best STAR WARS Zine: BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #1 (Editor: Ming Wathne)

Best Multi-Media Zine (containing SW): REMOTE CONTROL #1 (Editor: Kathryn Agel)

Best Short Story: "Symphony for Whistlepipes and Drumlyophones" by Z. P. Florian (appearing in ANOTHER SKY... #1, edited by Melanie Guttierrez and Lorrie Cherry)

Best Medium Story: "Whom the Gods Recall" by Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero (appearing in ANOTHER SKY... #1, edited by Melanie Guttierrez and Lorrie Cherry)

Best Long Story: "Gathering Darkness" by Carolyn Golledge (appearing in BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #1, edited by Ming Wathne)

Best Illustration Artist: Melanie Guttierrez for her illustrations in ANOTHER SKY... #1

Best Cover Artist: Melea Fisher for the cover of ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAN #5

Best Poem: "Interiors" by Rebecca Carey (appearing in BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #1, edited by Ming Wathne)

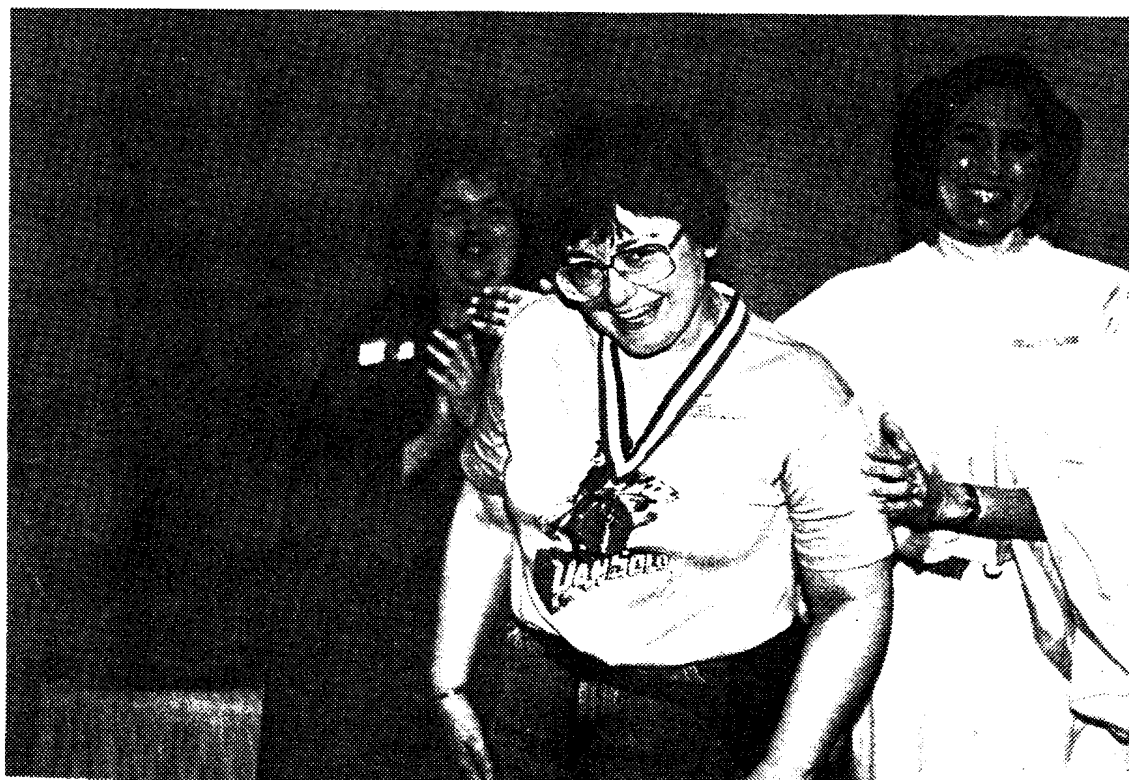
Letterzine/Newsletter: SOUTHERN ENCLAVE (Editor: Cheree Cargill)

Miscellaneous: Maggie Nowakowska for a filk entitled "Play It Again, Han" appearing in BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #1, edited by Ming Wathne)

---



Pat Grant, Ming Wathne, Melea Fisher



Pat Grant, Wanda Lybarger, Melea Fisher



Pat Grant, Carolyn Golledge, Melea Fisher



History in the Making!





Princess Leia's buns get in the way!

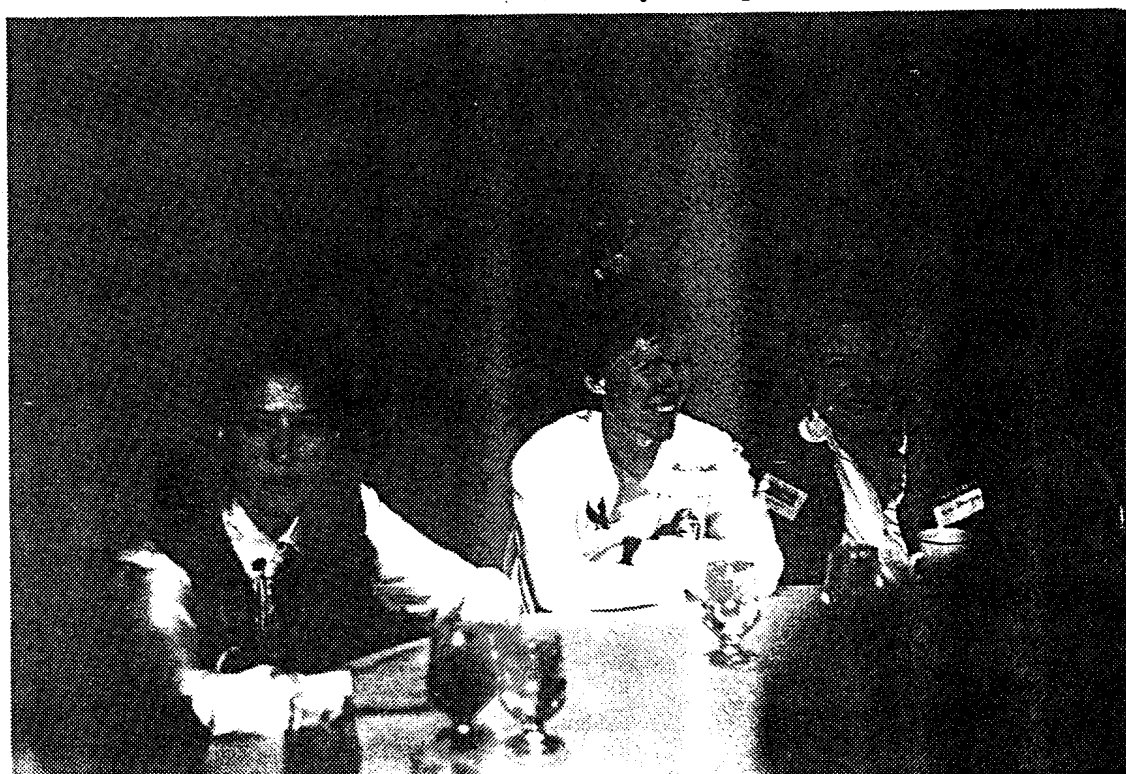


Peace at last!



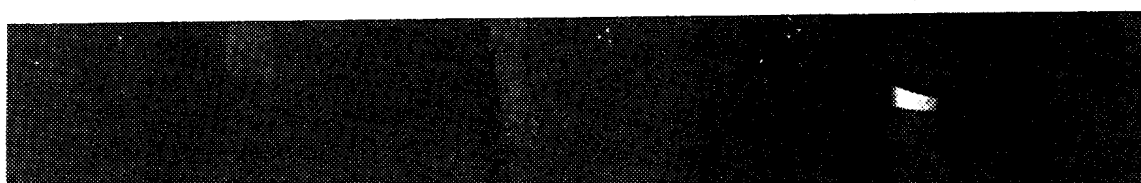


Melea Fisher, Carolyn Cooper



Barbara Anderson, Carolyn Golledge, Liz Sharpe

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Samia Martz, Linda Billington, Ming Wathne

## WHAT A CON!!

### SE Wins 4th Fan Q, Two Star Awards!

What a great con MediaWest 12 was and what wonderful SW panels and activities! The First Annual STAR aWARDs was the highlight of the convention, as you can see from the photos in this issue. As bad as last year's MWC was, this year's was that good! The new hotel was spacious and accomodating; the rooms were bigger and each came complete with a small refrigerator and coffeemaker. While the service at the hotel restaurant was rather slow and the menu expensive, a special room service snack menu was offered with reasonable prices. The one time we tried it, service was amazingly fast and the food plentiful. There were also lots of restaurants within walking distance as well as two banks (for emergency cash transfusions via ATM machines) and a shopping center (including a large Target store).

Con facilities were very large and the dealers' room was big enough to accomodate all the dealers without having them spread out in various nooks and crannies, as had become prevalent at the old hotel. And there was plenty of room in the aisles so that you weren't swept along in a human tide. The art show room was almost too big for the amount of art. Panel rooms were big enough to hold a fair-sized gathering. The four panels I served on were all well-attended but no one felt crowded.

Of course, it wouldn't be MediaWest without a few screwups. At the last minute, the hotel refused to allow us to bring food into the Star Awards banquet and insisted that they cater it. We had a nice buffet of hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans and potato salad, and it turned out that ours was the only catered affair at the whole con! For a mere \$3.00 (or more as donations were requested to cover the extra catering cost), it was the best deal at the con.

The annual blaster battle had to be cut short because of complaints by a dealer who was selling out of his room on that floor and by a woman who was trying to get her child to

sleep. Because the hotel is five stories tall, we would like to advocate to Gordon and Lori Carlton that next year separate floors be designated as a dealer's floor (because the room dealers were scattered throughout the hotel and difficult to find), a blaster battle floor, and a quiet floor for those who want no disturbances.

But overall it was a great convention and our efforts to unify SW fandom have made great strides since last year. Pat Grant related Lori Carlton's comment that the SW fans were now the largest organized group at MWC! Who says SW fandom is dead?

The Star Awards overshadowed the Fan Q's this year but I'm thrilled to report that SE won a fourth Fan Q for Best SW Letterzine. Thank you! A listing of other Fan Q winners is printed elsewhere in this issue. Congratulations to all the SE'ers who won in this and other fandoms.

Now I'd like to make a request for next year. Because SE has dominated the letterzine category for the last four years and won the 1991 Star Award as Best SW Letterzine, I am withdrawing SE from the Fan Q and Star Awards competition next year. BOUND BY THE FORCE, HIBERNATION SICKNESS and SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE FORCE are excellent publications and deserve the chance to collect some of those awards!

Two bits of information you might find interesting... James Casselbury reports in BOUND BY THE FORCE that he has found a company which sells SW costumes (among others) made to order. The address is: Superior Costumes, 225 East Ridge, Suite 4, Marquette, MI 49855.

And fans of THE YOUNG INDY CHRONICLES who want to express their support for the show should address their comments to: Mr. Robert Iger, President, ABC Entertainment, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067. And you all know the drill—be polite and don't put the name of the show on the envelope; it will be

forwarded to Lucas unopened.

On an unrelated topic... In a recent letter to me, A. G. Steyn asked that I make everyone aware that unedited versions of her stories that appeared in TREMOR #6 are available from her for a nominal (copying) charge. Please contact A. G. for more information.

And a note from me to everyone whom I owe letters, answers concerning stories, and orders for zines... Please bear with me! I'm typing as fast as I can! I have been working diligently over the last month to get all my mail answered. You WILL get an answer from me and/or your order as soon as humanly possible. The reasons my mail is so backlogged are extensive and unavoidable. They follow:

On Friday, May 1, I was called into a meeting with my boss and, without any warning whatsoever, abruptly fired from my job of six and a half months. Since I was extraordinarily happy there and thought everyone was fairly happy with the job I was doing, I could not have been more shocked if my boss had pulled a gun out of her desk and shot me! Her reasons boiled down to pure bullcrap (IMHO) and I could read between the lines enough to realize that the whole thing was politically motivated. For one thing, she stated that I was too "aggressive" in pursuing my job and that, I believe, is the operative word. As Randy put it, "You scared the shit out of her!"

But, what goes around comes around and less than a month later, my boss was herself fired just as abruptly! (Pardon me while I snicker sardonically...)

Anyway, it actually couldn't have come at a better time because I had just picked up the final group of pages on TF6 from the printer and for the next two and a half weeks, I spent several hours every day collating and binding this telephone-book-sized zine. I couldn't find anyone to help me until the last minute, so it took every bit of that time! I finished two days before we left for MediaWest.

We were gone for seven full days and then flaked out for a couple of days after we got back from our 2400 mile trip. The whole first week of June, I worked in the kitchen at my hometown church during Vacation Bible School (a tradition in southern churches during the summer months). It was a lot of fun but boy! what a chore! I've never poured so much Kool

Aid and handed out so many cookies in my life!

I had also sent out some resumes and had a couple of interviews and one resulted in my getting a new job at a small law firm as one of their two word processors. I started there June 22nd. I'm not as happy with it as I should be because it's just not as good a job as the one I was fired from. But, I have my own office and everyone there seems nice, the benefits are pretty good and I'm making the same salary, so things could be worse. I realize that I'm just still grieving over the severe ego-blow of my firing and the loss of a job I loved, so I'm hoping I will grow to like it better.

And we've been grieving for another reason. On May 9th, we were forced to say goodbye to our German shepherd, Thor. At the still comparatively young age of 10-1/2, he evidently suffered from a small stroke, the result being that he lost most of the muscle control in his hind legs and hips. There was no hope for his recovery and he was in obvious distress, so we made the hard decision to take that "final act of kindness," as someone put it. We had his body cremated and buried the little casket of his ashes in our backyard, marking the grave with a "Climbing Blaze" rose bush.

Thor was our loyal friend, our fierce protector and our loving companion. He was without a doubt the most intelligent dog I have ever met, a unique individual who will always have a special place in our memories. I still find myself expecting to find him under my desk as I type or sleeping beside my bed every night. I still expect to hear him rush the front door in challenge whenever the doorbell rings. Of all the dogs I have ever had, of all those yet to come into my life, Thor will stand out as special. He is sorely missed.

But we also have a new member of the family. On July 5, 1992, Smallwood's Dances With Wolves ("Wolf") came to live with us. He is a 9 week old German shepherd pup whose name is currently bigger than he is, but we think he'll soon grow into it! He's black and tan and scrappy as heck. He promises to be quite a character! I'll try to run a picture in a later issue.

Until next time, hope everyone is having a great summer!

# 1992 FAN Q AWARDS

*(This list is not complete but consists of selected winners.)*

## BLAKE'S 7

Art: Susan Lovett  
Editor: (tie) Jean Graham and Ann Wortham  
Letterzine: HORIZON and NEUTRAL ARBITER, Pat Nussman, editor (tie)  
Poem: "Evensong - Avon" by Jacqueline Taero  
Zine: GAMBIT #7, Jean Graham, editor

## MULTI-FANDOM

Letterzine: COMLINK, Allyson Dyar, editor  
Short Story: "Disillusions" by Sharon Redding  
Zine: REMOTE CONTROL, Kathryn Agel, editor

## QUANTUM LEAP

Art: Kate Nuremburg  
Editor: Kate Nuremburg  
Letterzine: QUANTUM QUARTERLY, Jim Rondeau, editor  
Novel: "Best of Two Worlds" by Sandy Hall  
Poem: "Pulitzer Prize for Photography, 1970" by Jane Milander  
Short Story: "Imagine" by Kate Nuremburg  
Zine: PLAY IT AGAIN, Kate Nuremburg, editor

## REAL GHOSTBUSTERS

Zine: THE VAMPIRE JANINE by Jeff and Mary Morris

## STAR TREK

Art: Jean Kluge  
Letterzine: DATA ENTRIES #13-14, Jim and Melody Rondeau, editors  
Novel: "Pirate of Avalon" by Terry Dusewellin  
Poem: "Borg" by Daphne Van Owen  
Short Story: "The Vulcan Prophecy" by Paulie Taylor  
Zine: ERIDANI #12, Randall Landers, editor

## STAR WARS

Art: Wanda Lybarger  
Letterzine: SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, Cheree Cargill, editor  
Short Story: "The Bequest" by Pat Nussman

## VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM ON THE SEA

Art: Jean McClure  
Zine: BELOW THE SURFACE #4, Kathryn Agel, editor

## BULLETIN BOARD

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

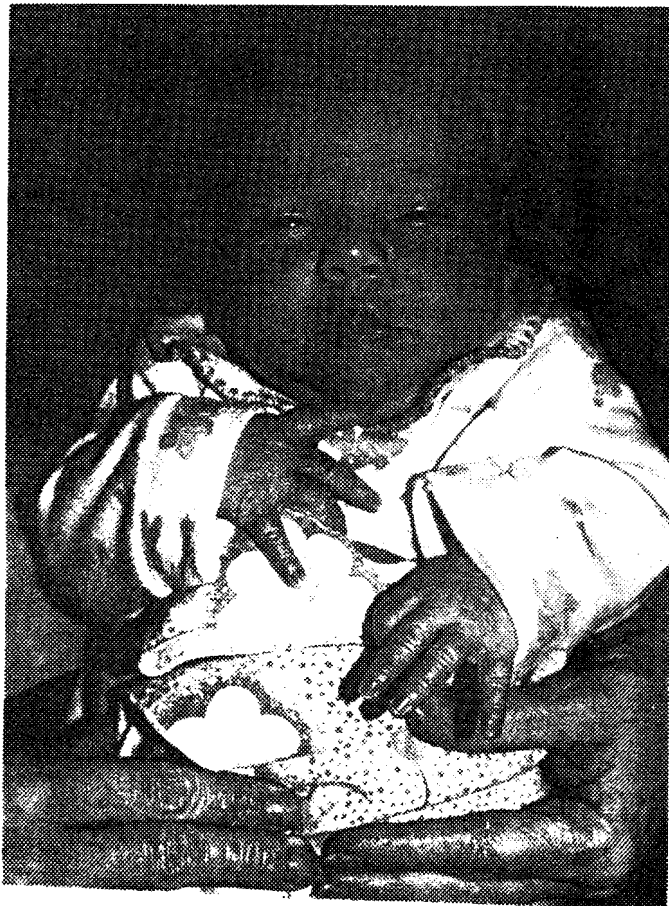
*George Lucas* for winning the prestigious Irving Thalberg Award this year at the Academy Awards for outstanding achievement in motion pictures.

*Karen Ripley* on the sale of a trilogy to Del Rey Books. The first book, tentatively titled *THE PERSISTENCE OF MEMORY* will be out in November '93, with the second book out in spring of '94, and the third in the fall of '94.

*Auriette Hahn* on her marriage to Tim Lindsey on May 16, 1992. Her new address is:

Auriette Hahn Lindsey  
7222 Anna Avenue #12  
Maplewood, MO 63143

*Judith Yuenger* on the birth of her granddaughter, Kelli Lynn Olifirowicz, born February 28, 1992. She weighed 8 lbs., 11 oz., and was 21" long. She is Judy's third grandchild and first granddaughter.



### ARTISTS/AUTHORS EXCHANGE

LOOKING FOR ARTISTS, Authors, Poets, Puzzle makers for *BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE* #3. SASE to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 for publishing outline.

IS ANYONE INTERESTED in contributing Indiana Jones stories for a new issue of *FIELD STUDIES*? Looking for adventure, romance and originality from any period in Indy's life. SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS for "A-Cross the Force", a SW cross-universe zine. SASE Tim Blaes, Rt. 6, Box 294, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

### CLUBS

Forces of the Empire  
c/o Pat Grant  
2371 N. Aurelius, Apt. 12  
Holt, MI 48842

Sons and Daughters of the Force  
c/o Carolyn Frodsham  
913 S. Grand Avenue #44  
San Jacinto, CA 92382

Stephen Nelmes  
U.K. Star Wars Fan Club  
8 Victoria Close, Thornbury  
Bristol, Avon B512 1JE  
Great Britain.

### PENPALS WANTED

Karen Finch  
5C4 Candlewyck Park Apts.  
Candlewyck Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850

### ERRATA

The address for Poison Pen Press is:

Poison Pen Press  
c/o Devra Langsam  
627 East 8th St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11218

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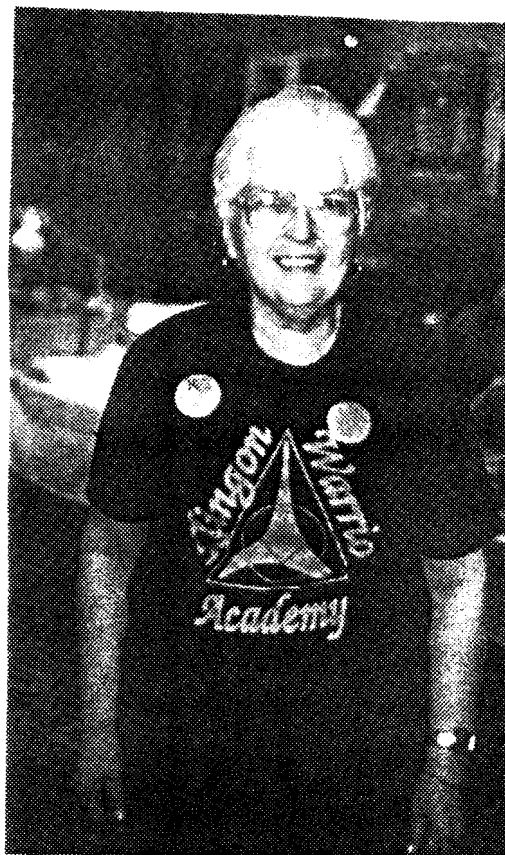
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Ann Birnstiel

Taken at Revelcon, March 13-15, 1992



NOTE: Due to the size of this issue, the clippings section has been dropped. It will return next time. Thanks to everyone who sent clippings—we'll try to get them all into future issues.

### Editor and Publisher:

Cheree T. Cargill  
457 Meadowhill Drive  
Garland, TX 75043

Subscription Price: \$7.00 single issue, \$21.00 for 3 issues or \$28.00 for a year. Please specify issue starting number. Back issues available for \$2.00 each. Back issues available: 16-18, 21, 23-25, 28-31. All others are sold out.

Deadline for #33 — September 1, 1992

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SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED LATER THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS AFTER DEADLINE WILL NOT BE PRINTED IN THIS ISSUE!

# WE WANT YOU



**...to submit your work to Imperium III,  
a Star Wars zine to be published early in 1993.**

Long stories, short stories, articles,  
art, reviews, vignettes, filks, poetry, etc.

Don't let our name fool you...  
we accept all kinds of Star Wars material,  
not just Imperial.

Send submissions to:  
Forces of the Empire

Forces Of The Empire  
2371 N. Aurelius, Apt. 12  
Holt, MI 48842

# FORCES OF THE EMPIRE

F.O.E. is a club devoted to the Star Wars saga and to helping preserve it's fandom. We are a not-for-profit club and do not intend to infringe on copyrights held by LucasFilm, George Lucas, or anyone else holding rights to the Star Wars saga. We are not an official fan club.

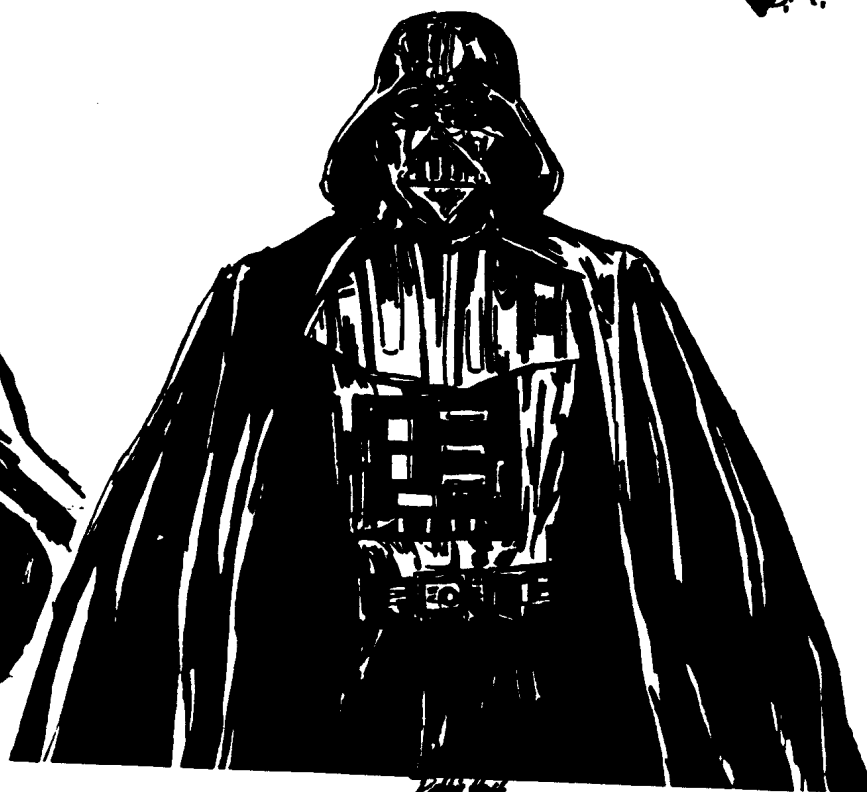
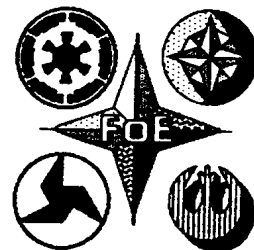
We publish a newsletter, called Bound By the Force, and a fanzine, Imperium. The club has four divisions, and members can join any or all divisions they choose. We encourage members to create new personas to use for interaction with other club member personas. Each division of the club has its own section in the newsletter, with members contributing stories, artwork, notices, articles, and other items to help make it an interesting newsletter. Members receive four issues of the newsletter per year.

F.O.E. celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in 1990, and with your support hopes to celebrate at least ten years more!

For more information. send a S.A.S.E.\* to: Forces Of The Empire  
2371 N. Aurelius, Apt. 12  
Holt, MI 48842

(\*S.A.S.E.= a self-addressed-stamped envelope.)

Membership is currently \$10 per year (\$15 overseas), for four issues of the newsletter.





# SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE FORCE

IF YOU ARE A STAR WAR SAGA FAN, "STAR WARS, EMPIRE, JEDI", YOU'LL WANT TO JOIN OUR FAMILY. OUR NEWSLETTERS ARE WRITTEN BY FANS FOR FANS. WE FEATURE ARTICLES, SHORT STORIES, CON REPORTS, PEN PALS, POETRY, AND MUCH MORE. WHOEVER YOUR FAVORITE STAR WAR CHARACTER MAY BE, YOU'LL ENJOY OUR NEWSLETTER, AS WE FEATURE THEM ALL. WE ARE MAINLY DEDICATED TO THE CHARACTERS OF THE FIRST THREE FILMS, BUT WE'LL KEEP ALL FANS UP TO DATE ON FUTURE STAR WAR SAGA FILMS.

SO, DON'T MISS OUT, JOIN US AND THE FORCE WILL BE WITH YOU - ALWAYS! WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO THE POETRY AND SHORT STORIES (PG RATED PLEASE), ETC. YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND IN TO US, AS WE ARE IN NEED OF NEW MATERIAL.

DUES IS PAID ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. EACH JAN. U.S. MEMBERS PAYS \$11.00 (OVERSEAS \$14.00, PLEASE SEND INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS OR POSTAL MONEY ORDERS. NO REPLY COUPONS PLEASE.) ALL OUR MEMBERS RECEIVE: MEMBERSHIP CARD, THREE NEWSLETTERS PER YEAR (MARCH - JULY - NOV), PLUS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER FANS. (SHOULD YOU JOIN US IN JULY, FOR EXAMPLE, DUES IS STILL \$11.00, AS YOU WILL RECEIVE THE MARCH NEWSLETTER ALSO, THEN COME THE FOLLOWING JAN, YOUR DUES WILL BE DUE AGAIN.)

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE NON PROFIT. WE, SONS AND DAUGHTERS, ARE A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FANS.

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: CAROLYN FRODSHAM, 913 S. GRAND AVE SP.# 44, SAN JACINTO, CA 92582 (MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CAROLYN FRODSHAM, NOT THE CLUB. THANK YOU.)

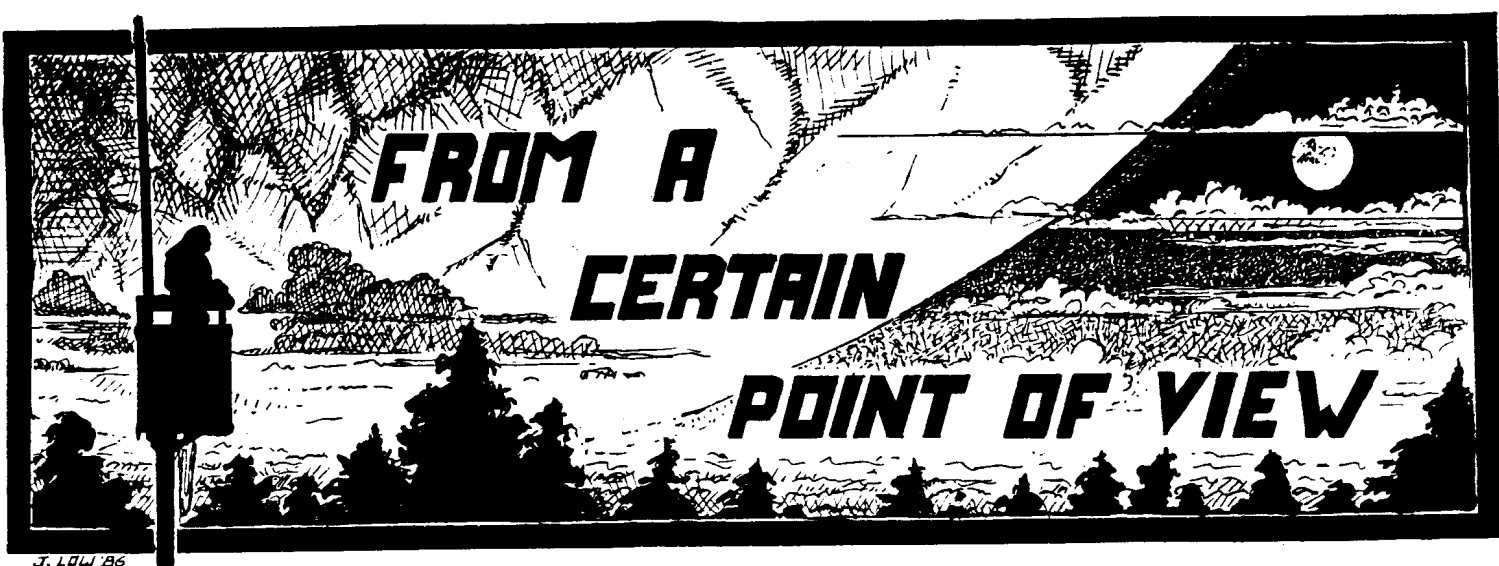
PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO ABOVE ADDRESS: (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR NAME FEATURED IN OUR PEN PAL COLUMN? IF YES, LIST YOUR HOBBIES AND FAVORITE SW CHARACTER BELOW. PLEASE PRINT.



J. L. W. '86

Judith G. Yuenger  
901 Meadowcrest Road  
LaGrange Park, IL 60525-1530

January 29th, 1992

*((Ed: Egads! Somehow or other, I misplaced this LoC of Judy's which should have gone into last issue! My sincerest apologies to Judy!))*

Nothing like waiting until the last possible moment to get around to doing this. Have been incredibly busy so this is going to be short.

Have been working on the STAR AWARDS for both '90 and '91 and things are going great guns. The '90 STAR AWARDS winners should be appearing in SE and other newsletters and I have sent them out to those who sent SASE's. The '91 ballot will appear in SE and other newsletters soon. Please vote!

I am really pleased with the awards. The certificate (much thanks to Z.P. Florian and Arwen Rosenbaum for their efforts) turned out really gorgeous. The medals are really nice. Gold medals on a red, white and blue neck ribbon. About half of the winners from '90 will attend MW and receive theirs at MW. The remainder will be mailed to the winners. The same will apply when I have the results for '91.

I have written to MW Programming and we are planning on a SW luncheon (everyone is invited!!) followed by the presentation of the STAR AWARDS. That will be followed by a round table discussion of zine eds, SE, Forces of the Empire and Sons and Daughters of the Force to try and unify fandom and to see what's going on. Everyone is encouraged to attend and add their two cents worth. Everyone try to attend these sessions and make SW one of the biggest attended events at MW.

Cheree: Liked your obituary for Gene Roddenberry. Well written and the second to the last paragraph is true for me too. He will be missed.

Also I love the Crew Roster — really a nice way to get to know a little bit about members.

Mary Urhausen: I am sorry to hear that WOOKIEE COMMODE will no longer be printed. I enjoyed WC very much. It will be greatly missed. I never meant for all those categories to be part of the awards, the questionnaire listed all of them to see just which of them most people wanted to have. I wanted to comment on your notes to Z.P. Persistence is a wonderful thing. It can and does get results. There was this club I wanted to join and I sent letter after letter with no reply. Finally met someone who belonged and got another address and finally became a member. Wouldn't be if I hadn't persisted.

Kathy Agel: A laser printer! I'm jealous. That's my next purchase (I hope). Good luck with ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE and I want a copy!!

Nora Mayers: I, too, like The Corellian Merits of Achievement better being a Han fan but we didn't want to start a fight with the Luke and Darth Vader fans, now did we? STAR AWARDS is PERFECT.

Marti Schuller: Nobody but nobody said a word about my smoking in the hallways or where ashtrays were provided. Wonder if my appearance is intimidating? I feel that I am a careful smoker. I don't smoke in small rooms where there are non-smokers but I'll fight if someone tells me I can't smoke in an area where smoking is allowed.

Catherine Churko: Jawa Joy Juice! Insanity pills is more like it!

Hope all had a very Merry Christmas and wish you all the best in this New Year.

Z. P. Florian  
6214 Waterway  
Falls Church, VA 22044

Hi, there! I am going to MWC, will be dressed more or less as a black wizard, only I don't know--how do you take a staff on an airplane?

Number one, Dark Empire comics are glorious! I am sure half of fandom will faint from sheer joy seeing Luke kneeling in front of the Emperor. The other half will take up arms...

Number two, I was at the press opening of the ST exhibition in the Air and Space Museum. Worth seeing... The entire cast of the show was there, from Shatner to Majel Barrett, and they breathed!! and talked !!! and walked. (Just bragging).

Re your comments...

Jacqueline: Yes, James Earl Jones WAS Vader. I buy your theory on Kenobi deliberately keeping Luke from going home, to sever his ties to Tatooine. Very good point: if Leia was the other, why risk her life, why keep Luke from going to Bespin? I have no answer...

Debbie: And many others--I think Leia was racing home with the plans, but when she saw that her capture was unavoidable, she directed the ship towards Tatooine, hoping she could get there to meet Kenobi. In Melanie Gutterrie's grand story, Kenobi already told Leia's father that he is about to bring a real live Jedi boy to Alderaan sometime soon.

Marti: Yes, a pox on colorization. And yes, DRAGONLANCE is part of my world.

A. G. Steyn: IMO, your English is better. English grammar? Two things kill me, one is the should-would-could-might monster, especially in the past tense. The other is the wicked way I am supposed to say "I'm supposed to say" instead of "I am supposed to say." *Möge die Macht mit Dir sein! Az erő legyen veled!* (Or "veletek" in plural. The "ö" is like the "i" in "bird", but a very long sound.)

BLACK MAGIC WOMAN is a third-rate, cheap horror movie, Mark Hamill's BODY is generously shown! (Shame on us...)

Catherine, the Churko: Listen, willya stop teasing us with your secret drawer full of delicious pictures? Publish them or face my wrath! And thanks for your (and Cheree's) kind words about the Zornom.

Ming: Nothing would give me bigger pleasure than to have an English speaking person dissecting my stories grammarwise, before they go to the editors. Anyone out there want to volunteer? I

am a good sportsbeing and can take corrections.

Michelle: Huh? I am missing something here. Everybody seems to know more about you, than me. I agree. It hurts if someone changes your dialogue. Even worse is to have the last line of your story changed. Fortunately, I never met an editor in fandom I didn't like. Lucky me. Some suggestions are great. Last time the editors asked, "And where are they when this happens?", it made me see that I knew exactly where the conversation had taken place and assumed the reader would know it, too.

Fiorenzo: By this time, you are probably ecstatic about the second part of Dark Empire.

Tim and others: I'd love to finance the computerization of fandom, but alas, right now I can't even afford a bit more memory to play Ultima 7. I merely say that in ten years or so, computers will be everywhere, like telephones.

Maggie: I think Han would be a good father. I love all the fan stories about complex, tribal, or clannish Corellian customs, that explain his basic honesty and sense of honor under the smuggler's layer. IMO, Han would insist on having his children by his side, under his protection all the time. But then, I am not writing SW, Lucas is. The Dark Empire comics are supposedly main-line Lucas ideas, much more than HEIR, which they practically dismissed as an episode.

Nuff said.

See ya at MWC. I'll be the short gray lady in the black hood, accompanied by a very tall, 13-year-old Vulcan female (if I can manage the ears).

## Gigantic Problems

Jacqueline Taero  
Hither & Yon, Apt. 2  
Elsewhere, Terra

It occurs to me that there's something downright improbable about the Empire's existence--that it faces two gigantic problems which should have prevented its formation in the first place and which should have subsequently hindered its

ability to thrive.

The first concerns the matter of travel within the SW universe. In our own reality, leaving one's own borders requires passports, visas, and all manner of red tape even in the most liberal and freedom-loving countries; many totalitarian governments sharply restrict freedom of movement even within their own borders.

What is the situation in the SW universe? Certainly the Imperials aren't likely to allow beings to travel from planet to planet without attempting to keep tabs on them—this is supposedly some form of dictatorship, after all. But no matter how proficient the sensor webs or how thoroughly patrolled planetary space may be, the sheer vastness of the SW universe indicates that there would have to be numerous opportunities for ships to slip through the cracks. A wide-open galaxy filled with "unauthorized" ships avoiding the ports and disgorging their cargoes/passengers wherever they please would make any good Imp's blood run cold.

In ANH, we are shown a rather unorthodox departure from an Imperial-supervised planet—it's doubtful that blasting your way out of port is the accepted routine. But what is the normal procedure? Should Luke and Obi-Wan have possessed travel documents? I recall no reference to this canonically. Was Han supposed to have submitted a passenger list and itinerary to port officials? Does the transportation of droids between planets normally require some sort of official sanction? Again, no help from the filmed Saga. It's not unreasonable to assume that the Empire would make a concerted effort to prohibit unauthorized travel. And yet, how does a government prevent its population from going wherever it wishes when we are speaking of space travel and entire planets?

One theory I've heard advanced suggests that ships may be so expensive that they are beyond the reach of any but the privileged few. A reasonable hypothesis, but examination of the cantina scene quickly punches it full of holes. Upon learning of Han's proposed fee, Luke exclaims that they could almost buy their own ship for that amount. This gives us some notion of the going rate for a small spacegoing vehicle—and the fact that sale of Luke's landspeeder raises at least a portion of the passage money establishes that some ships may well be within the financial reach of the majority. Another possibility is that pilot training is strictly licensed, regulated, and limited to the chosen few. This theory, too,

bites the dusts in the next few lines of dialogue from the cantina scene. Han's derision—"who's gonna fly it?"—would seem to give momentary credence to the idea that pilots are a rare breed, but it is immediately contradicted by Luke's confident assertion that he could, in fact, pilot the ship with no problem. And his subsequent X-wing exploits prove that this was not an empty boast. If a farm kid from the back edge of nowhere can acquire the requisite knowledge, it is doubtful that pilot skills are a closely guarded arcane art.

Nor does appropriate landing space appear to be a problem for the average craft. Luke's X-wing manages to take off and land from the mire of Dagobah with little difficulty, provided he keeps it out of the lake; Han sets the Falcon down inside a space slug's stomach. Regular port facilities do not seem to be required.

So we're back where we started, with "regulated" ships at official ports and a probable plethora of unregulated ships slipping through sensor nets, wholesale smuggling of goods and illegal immigrants, planetary "coast guards" and customs inspectors going crazy trying to stay on top of the situation, and a largely wide-open galaxy. And if that is the case, how has the Empire managed to keep any control at all?

The second problem facing the Improbable Empire is one of communications. One of the first things a dictatorship does is to limit the flow of information to its citizens—failure to do so can be its death warrant. However, in an age of cellular phones, videotapes, computers, fax machines and so forth, several totalitarian governments on our own planet have found it difficult to keep total control of communications.

Controlling the technology itself is no less problematic than prohibiting its use. Technological secrets seem to routinely change hands for ready cash, and the most advanced computer chips are sold world-wide on the same basis, despite government efforts to keep them out of undesirable hands. A similar state of affairs would almost certainly prevail in far away fictional galaxies. If the equipment exists, rebels, malcontents, and subversives are going to be able to get their hands on it; and what they possess, they will use. And technology in the SW universe gives every indication of being several jumps ahead of our own, although—given the fact that an astrodroid can tap into just about any computer he wishes at will—it's obvious that security measures lag far behind. If the truth shall make one free, the

technology is available to make the truth widely known, and there is little or no systems security, how is it that the Empire appears to have a stranglehold on the galaxy?

As I see it, we have an Empire which cannot possibly control the movements of its inhabitants nor adequately prevent the free exchange of information, two crucial factors in the survival of any totalitarian government. So the question before the house is this: Can anyone come up with a valid reason why the Empire as we know it should even exist?

Cheree Cargill & Z. P. Florian: Thank you for the kind words concerning Pat's and my story "Whom the Gods Recall". I was hesitant about publishing it, especially after a close friend dismissed the story as "uninvolving". You've made me feel quite a bit better about the whole thing.

Maggie Nowakowska: Excellent point re parents/children, inherited traits, etc. An idea I've played with on occasion (although apparently not a concept endorsed by Lucas) is that Leia could very well decide not to have children and be opposed to Luke having any, either, based on that very kind of underlying terror.

I also feel that Leia is going to have considerable difficulty at some point reconciling her own identity with that of her biological father. Unlike Luke, she has no "Anakin Skywalker" mythology to cushion the blow; Ben and Yoda haven't been playing their mind games with her head. Even if she seems to accept it with a shrug, as in ROTJ, it's bound to surface sometime and it could cause real psychological problems.

Rebirth aside, I have always felt that Anakin's face cheated the audience of its expectations. Remember the collective gasp that arose from the audience during TESB at the first sight of the back of Vader's head? We had three years to wonder what the front looked like—and when it was finally revealed, what was the pay-off? Humpty Dumpty in a black cape.

Now just suppose that the front had been as scarred and horrible as the back. And further suppose that Luke had seemed oblivious to the hideousness, because he would have been responding to the inner Anakin rather than the surface ugliness. We would have had not only a pay-off for three years of anticipation but also, with the "good" Anakin restored despite his "evil" looks, a reinforcement of not judging by appearances.

(I must in all fairness add that I personally would have preferred a scarred appearance partly because Humpty Dumpty utterly destroyed a terrific

story Pat and I had started. It's going to take me a few centuries to forgive George for that...)

I like the idea that the beginning of the end came when the Jedi divided the Force into Light and Dark. (There's something faulty with the Light/Dark business, anyway—one cannot exist without the other.) In addition to your eminently logical reasoning, there is the fact that the instant divisions are created, a situation exists wherein one side is almost inevitably pitted against the other. The Jedi, in that sense, would have created their own downfall.

Z. P. Florian: Your observations concerning the "Big Bear" syndrome with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe confirm fears I've been entertaining for some time. My question: Did the Empire play a similar role in containing/controlling national and racial hatreds in the SW universe? If so, what does that mean for the future Republic?

My choices for your poll are as follows: Luke is not getting a girl because: fan writers are not up to their job (okay, okay, I plead guilty as far as published work is concerned—are you telling me there's actually a market for Luke romances??? I thought it was etched in carbonite that a fanfic Luke was only allowed to agonize and train Jedi.) IMO, Luke should get...hmm, having noticed that you have a wicked sense of humor, how about something completely different—a bloodthirsty barbarian girl who doesn't believe in the Force, kills anyone who gets in her way, and eats with her fingers at state banquets?

Ming Wathne: Old guard? Does SW fandom have one? My first dealings with SW fandom took place in late 1978, first print appearance July 1979. I can't, on that basis, consider myself more than a late-arriving dinosaur, a tag I will cheerfully accept. But old guard? That implies legendary status from day one. I believe Maggie Nowakowska is the only one still among us who can lay claim to that.

Cheree Cargill: Wow! A cold-blooded way to sever Luke's emotional ties to Tatooine, indeed...but, you know, it fits. I'd never thought of it in quite that way, despite having suspected that Kenobi knew what was up. What a nasty little notion...and what rich story potential. In fact, some of the ideas in SE discussions lately have created the possibility of writing a much more complex and darker Kenobi than we usually see in fanfic. Ever so much more interesting than the saintly, pious, DULL Kenobi some of us dinosaurs remember.

Miscellany: Am I the only one who sees a strong parallel between the Jedi and the Knights Templar? From the blend of religion and militarism (complete with obscure origins) to enormous power and the company of kings, to the alleged "fall to darkness", betrayal and wholesale slaughter ending with the entire order being wiped out in an incredibly short period of time, the story has a very familiar ring.

Concerning computers: Zines on disk? Oh, my aching eyes. As regards submissions, assuming that everyone in fandom were rich enough to afford the equipment, there are still various problems of compatibility. The whole process can be skewed by such simple things as 3-1/2" vs. 5-1/4" diskettes—which is why poor Cheree ends up re-typing my unconscionably long letters to SE. Sorry, Cheree...I'll shut up now!

## Zines on Disks

Ming Wathne  
437 Via Roma  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Well, I thought I better get this out today, before my mind wanders out into another direction and I completely forget. I still have a 6 inch pile of letters and such that accumulated while we were at the Con.

Jacqueline Taero: Vader's fascination including not only the voice but the simple presence of the man. And he also tends to appeal to all of us who have a secret urge to take control and straighten things out. Lucky for us most of us are too civilized to give into the impulse.

Wanda's idea about Yoda—I like it! A bit like what happened to Christianity during the time of the Spanish Inquisition.

I will go along with asking for deposits after you are ready to go to press; otherwise, I still think they are an accident looking for a place to happen.

Debbie Kittle: Isn't it possible that Leia had a whole list of rebel sympathizers on any number of different planets? As apparently a key member in the resistance, they could direct her

to a bolt hole if she were pushed into difficult situations. Sort of a survival address book!

Z. P. Florian: Using the mouse with the left hand (hot diggity, we southpaws have some advantage)—I can use either, but prefer the left for mouse and right for keys. Works great. Drives my teacher up the wall!

Jabba's "Soon you will appreciate me"—well, some men get their jollies out of beating up women and then say the ladies enjoy it (sppp! — deleted)! As for the gender preferences or abnormalities, well, almost anything you can think of has been practiced by homo sapiens at one time or another. It is the culture that tends to tie approved behavior to the sex acts and defines perversion.

Think you need to read a few more stories about Luke. He has been lai—well, he had done it on more than one occasion. I think your Fen Poll is great!!

Marti Schuller: One thing about being my age is you can say "I was there." I saw the Bela Lugosi DRACULA in original release when I was 5 (no, I do not advise it—but then you went to the movies every Saturday back then and no one thought your morals were going to be corrupted by what you saw. It was either over your head or squeaky clean). The black and white were great, but I don't object to the color version if they are well done. It adds excitement. We will have to get together and compare notes, but my collection is somewhat shorter than yours.

Entire zines on floppy disks! Well, if you can find a disk that will survive accidental erasure, electrical accident, or fit in a pocket-sized computer, maybe! Until then, the pocket version or 8x11 I can roll up and put in a backpack, cram in a suitcase, or leave on the seat of a car without worry, will do.

I think Vader was happy enough to bury Anakin until he reached the age where he wanted his line to continue. This tendency is to be found in almost every culture. If it is a deep species survival instinct, we are still not sure, but it is not unique to see men who have ignored their offspring in early years to suddenly become interested in them when the realization sets in that they are not going to live forever.

A. G. Steyn: You and I are in the same mind about these winter-loving people—Go to Hoth!!

Regarding Han in sequined jockstrap and bells—well, you should see my Han doll. The foregoing costume would be overdressing him, with his tiny loin wrap.

Can really appreciate your friend Claudia's surprise when Dave Prowse answered the phone. Here in Santa Barbara, you are never sure if that person you saw in the supermarket is the actor you think it is or merely someone who resembles them.

Nora Mayers: Hey, don't I get a little credit for helping think up the Star Awards? It was me who pushed Judy into it (okay, blackmail is the word, but that sounds so gauche).

As for Creation Cons, well, all we can do is stay away and tell our friends to stay away. Maybe it will do some good. At least I hope so.

Catherine Churko: Coping with weather patterns. Well, we wanted rain. We got rain in the usual California way—really more than we wanted at one time. Southern California is a Corellian colony with its peculiarities. People who visit here are astonished at the Los Angeles River that is a wide concrete-lined channel (see *TERMINATOR* #2) with a tiny stream about a foot deep running down the center. They wonder why we go to all the trouble of containing such a small bit of water. If you have seen the news in the last few months, you now know why. Can you imagine what would happen if we did not have that concrete channel? Yep, typical Corellian thinking.

Jennifer Moore: Well, Jen, I am glad you tried writing. Look for a bit from you in *BRIGHT CENTER* #2. You came in just under the wire.

About writing and the zines, well, in the SW universe, there are a lot of stories. Many great, many good and some bad. The most amazing thing I have found is that no matter how poor a story may be, there is almost always a bit or piece that is good, either an idea, or the way a story is handled. I have always found it amusing that outside of Shakespeare or the Bible, one of the most quoted excerpt example is "It was a dark and stormy night...", supposedly a most terrible quote! We can learn from even the bad.

Enough. Go in peace with the Force.



Marti Schuller  
415 S.E. Annette  
Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403

March 29, 1992

It was wonderful, as always, to receive my copy of *SE* #31. First off, congratulations to all the Star Awards winners. Cheree, you must be very proud—not only best SW zine, but so many other winners from *TREMOR* #5, as well. Of course, we all know it was a great zine, anyway, but aren't accolades nice to receive? (*Ed: You bet! I haven't stopped grinning since getting the announcement from Judy. Since TF never won a Fan Q—it was beaten every year by WOOKIEE COMMODE—and 1990 didn't even have a SW zine category, this award was all the sweeter! Thank you to everyone out there who voted for us and my congratulations to all the fine folks whose work appeared in TF#5. You can bet this award is going to be framed and hanging on my wall!!*)

As I write this, spring is newly sprung and warm weather is just over the horizon. Am I ever ready, too! Soon it will be time for a fresh crop of SW zines, hot summer movies, and lazy days of fishing (which I confess to loving, but we believe strictly in catch and release).

I loved the photos of Judy Yuenger's "babies" and Ming Wathne's gorgeous new grandson, but I'll admit that I missed the Crew Roster. I hope next issue (this issue?) will be cram full of MWC pix to make up for it.

Debbie Kittle: I hope you had a fantastic time at MWC. One day I will get there again, but sadly this wasn't my year. As for sending my photo in to *SE*, I haven't been asked and I presume that Cheree is keeping track of who has and who hasn't been featured, requesting input as she needs it. Besides, being photogenic is something I've never been accused of. (*Ed: Everything in SE is done on a voluntary basis, including the Crew Roster. So, let's get on the ball, you guys, and send me some photos and bios!!!*)

Z. P. Florian: I loved your comic "fen poll" re Luke's nocturnal activities. It wouldn't be a bad idea, though, for *SE* readers to honestly speak out on this storyline idea. How do most fan readers feel? Is there interest in sexual Luke stories on a romantic level (non-graphic)? I, for one, see Luke as moderately sexually active with perhaps a few select partners who don't seek long-term commitments from him—intimate friends—but I doubt this would provide satisfying reading.

Am I wrong?

Cheree Cargill: Ah, another true devotee of the great old films. It's so nice to know I'm not alone. You named so many of my favorites, especially ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. What a wonderful mood breaker whenever I'm feeling blah! As for colorization, I hope Ted Turner spends eternity in a black and white hell!

I do have to comment on your remark to Ming that you'd only received seven LoCs from 150 copies of TREMOR #5. I realized some time ago via the pages of SE that the dearth of LoCs was lamented, but I didn't appreciate how truly poor the response was until I read this reply. Come on, people! Let's twist some arms out there and get those LoCs pouring in!

Jennifer Moore: Hurray! I'm so glad we'll be seeing your writing soon. Be sure to let us know where you'll be appearing in print. No matter what, keep at it.

Ann Birnstiel: Welcome to SE! It's always good to see a new name.

Tim Blaes: Oops! Okay, so pregnancies do vary vastly, but some aspects seem to be at least 90% common to nearly everyone I know.

Leanne Wingo: I loved talking to you, too, and I have relayed your praise to Treena for "Missing." Thanks for your kind words on my story, "Her Ladyship". I promise to find a "home" for it soon. Janet can let you know where and when, but I'm glad you enjoyed it.

I'm afraid I disagree that Ford is perfect for the role of Jack Ryan in PATRIOT GAMES, though. I'm trying to keep an open mind, but I enjoy Clancy's writing and really feel Harrison is just too old to play the part. I'll gladly admit it, though, if the film proves me wrong.

Love your idea in "The Day George Went Too Far", but just how late at night did this giddiness arise?

Maggie Nowakowska: I suppose I can understand vaguely why some people would choose to not have children if their own childhoods were unbearable due to "bad" parents. However, I think the majority who survive such a past feel that they can protect their own children by being loving, caring and vigilant for signs of "wayward" behavior. In tracing my family tree, I found a "bad seed" in every single generation of one side (bloodline, if you prefer), but I am not overly concerned for my sons because of this. I do feel that having a "bad" or "evil" family member makes the rest of the family strive harder to do "right" and distance themselves from that relative. I say this,

having some personal experience with "evil" family myself.

This is shorter than my usual replies, but not much else is going on in my life just now. Hello and good wishes to everyone I missed commenting to this issue. I would have loved to comment on the SW comics, but unfortunately, I haven't been able to find them here on the moon. I would like to add a quick last word on THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES. So far, I have truly enjoyed this program. The history and photography, acting and stories have been terrific. With QUANTUM LEAP following (on another network, as they say), Wednesday night has become my favorite evening of the week.

Well, until next time, stay healthy, be happy, and keep the Force, always.

## Hamill News

Lisa Cowan  
PO Box 5276  
Orange, CA 92613

April 27, 1992

Hello, SOUTHERN ENCLAVE readers. I'm a new member to your esteemed, or should I say, rebellious ranks, although I'm not new to SW fandom. Some of you will remember when Lee Vibber and I published "ON THE MARK, the Newsletter for Mark Hamill Fans" from 1982-1987. Others of you may have seen my articles in the Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine. And please don't complain to me about that latter magazine's total lack of schedule; It's Not My Fault! I just write the occasional article for them, I don't make policy. I'm just as frustrated and disappointed about some aspects of the LFL-FC as anyone, more so perhaps.

I'd heard about SE over the years and I may have bought an issue long ago, but only recently I refound Cheree's address and bought some back issues, including the Spring 1992 issue. Good stuff! So, I'll try to squeeze SE into my crowded, overburdened life. I can see SE is a letter-



zine, but also a bit like an APA, and I'm a ten year member of APANAGE, ostensibly a children's and fantasy literature APA, although the 25 members discuss everything in the universe. SE is far more manageable than APANAGE which averages 350 pages every two months! Most members are writers and writers tend to...write. I average 20 pages each mailing and I've not missed one in ten years! However, I'll not attempt anything like that here!

Brief bit of Hamill news: Mark will be the voice of The Joker in a new animated BATMAN TV show set to debut on the Fox Network this September, weekday afternoons. Last year, he filmed a (low budget) time travel SF movie in Canada called IN EXILE. No word when or if it will be released. It may well go direct to video, as have his last two films.

Other SW alumni updates: RAIDERS and JEDI producer, Howard Kazanjian, has produced an SF film called X-CHANGE about cyborgs. No film distributor has picked it up yet. SW producer Gary Kurtz is living in England, but I don't know what he's been doing since SLIPSTREAM. Sidney Ganis, former marketing president for Lucasfilm, is now President of Motion Picture Distribution at Columbia (Sony) Pictures. He's done quite well for himself and he's still a super nice guy! I got to work closely with Sid on the TUCKER movie project when he was a film exec at Paramount Pictures.

Even though most of you are into SW fanzines, there is a new newsletter for SW memorabilia collectors that I can recommend. It is called STAR WARS COLLECTION TRADING POST. The quarterly news & letterzine is published by Laura Kyro, 6030 Magnolia, St. Louis, MO 63139-2748. A subscription is \$12.00 (4 issues). The newsletter has SW news, collection articles by readers, news on what's new out there in SW and Trek merchandise, letters and other stuff. The SWCTP also takes brief ads (25 cents per words for fans) and I think it would be a good place for SW zine editors to advertise their zines and recruit new zine readers. I'd say that most SWCTP readers are unaware of SW fanzines and many would be eager to buy.

Nora Mayers: I've been to a few Creation Cons (I don't attend anymore) and I do agree with you. The "fans" are treated like peasants and creativity is shunned for "professionalism". David Gerrold is now connected with "Creation Enterprises" (their new name) and he was on the defensive quite often during an April interview on a

local science fiction radio show, "Hour 25". I think he said something about CE taking a percentage (read "tax") on the total amount dealers make at their "shows" (they are not called Cons anymore). That sounds gruesome to say the least! But Gerrold also said only licensed dealers can sell at CE's shows now, and they can only sell licensed merchandise (read K-Mart quality stuff). So, fans would be barred from selling their non-licensed, non-profit, "amateur" (read interesting and creative) products anyway. I can remember back in the mid-1980's when L. Ron Hubbard's "people" tried to take over fandom. They failed and so will Creation.

Matthew Whitney: Hi! You, I have known for many a moon. Why did you not tell me more about SE? I know, I know, I didn't ask.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Another familiar name. I've never had any contact with "that other" Italian SW group, only your CLOUD CITY. Feuds, feh.

A. G. Steyn: I correspond with several Hamill and SW fans in Germany. Are there an active SW club or zines in Germany? My 14-year-old son, Steven, will be taking German in high school next year. My father's family (Stelling) is from the Mosel River Valley (wine merchants, before they immigrated to the New World). I'll have to find my SW poster on which I have MTFBWY written out in Tolkein's Elvish.

Michelle Malkin: There are always SW movie rumors out there. Comic book stores and SF cons seem to grow them. All I can say is there is more talk of "when" rather than "if" coming out of the North Coast these days, but currently the YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES is Lucas' passion. 1997 is still the date most heard for the next SW movie, but it is NOT official. I would not look for anything finished before that date, however.

Tim Blaes: Hamill's car accident—right, no coma, just a concussion, fractured cheek bone and a totally mashed nose. A little cartilage from his ear was used to fix his nose. Painful, but not life-threatening. One "side effect" is that he now drives a Volvo station wagon. Of course, having three kids has something to do with that, too. The most humorous definition of a Mary Sue I've heard is: "A story where the author inserts herself into the story and then inserts one or more of the main characters into herself." Ahem...this is not to say I agree or condone this definition, but I do find it funny and sometimes true. I don't know who first said it.

Maggie Nowakowska: I know of you via Bev

Clark, a fellow Apanager. I like your idea of a retrospective zine. I may be able to come up with some early fannish SW art for it. I agree with your thoughts on the revealing of Anakin Skywalker's face. Are you aware of comedian Rick Overton's Anakin joke? At the gala SW 10th Anniversary, Overton did a SW routine, which included a sketch of Luke unmasking Vader. When the mask is removed, "Luke" startles back with a gasp, "Oh, my God--it's Uncle Fester!" It brought the house down.

I'll comment to others of you next time, okay? I love it that some of you own horses. I've owned and trained horses since I was 14, and I've owned my beloved Arabian gelding, Prince Allahsaum, since 1972.

I'll end with a question to all: If Timothy Zahn was told he could not bring back any character that was killed off in the SW movies, why then can Dark Horse Comics bring back the Emperor, as they did in issue #2?

## Rebirth of the Jedi

Cheryl Pryor  
2458 Stone Post Terrace  
Richmond, VA 23233

May 29, 1992

Once again, I'm cutting this awfully close to the deadline but I wanted to get in with MediaWest impressions. I hope everyone who went had a good time. I sure did. And there were new SW zines to be had--amazing! A new TREMOR, a new DAGOBAN, and a new BRIGHT CENTER. Gimme, gimme, gimme!

I liked the new hotel though it wasn't without its flaws. It was wonderful to have such a huge dealers' room. Even if it was the same number of sellers, having them in one room was a thrill. I was glad to see several SW panels (instead of a lone panel as in years past) and a renewed interest. My Obi-Wan costume got several favorable comments in the halls. I missed seeing any of the folks who do Vader--did I just miss out or weren't costumes as evident this year? I loved seeing

Melea Fisher's Leia but never saw Mark Fisher's Luke. Come on, folks, let's get those costumes on!

The STAR AWARDS ceremony was fun and the awards themselves were lovely. The art on the certificate would make great name badges. Can't wait to see what Judith has cooked up for next year...

Jacqueline Taero: Those shaking the bones questions have driven a lot of us crazy, believe me. But they're fun all the same. I re-watch the trilogy every year or so (usually right before MWC to get all pumped up) and it's great to match the questions to the familiar scenes. Suddenly, they aren't so familiar anymore. I agree with you about Luke's preconditioning towards the Dark Side. I wonder if he even took the test again. What would he see this time? I think the Jedi not trained on Dagobah should have faced a similar test--confront their fears in some way. I'd love to see this brought up either in the new books or the comics. (Haven't read the second Zahn book yet, though I love the title--DARK FORCE RISING has some erotic overtones that I'm sure won't be addressed.)

About your questions of humans trained by non-humans, I like the idea of Yoda being the last of his race. I always see him as a Moses figure--flawed but with an enormous job to do. And like Moses, he has to die before seeing the "promised land", i.e., seeing the rebirth of the Jedi.

I've always thought of the Force as crossing species lines, that it would affect all races equally. The idea that it wouldn't is intriguing. Since Luke's been given the task of rebuilding the Jedi, or at least of passing on what he's learned, I think his Order will little resemble the old one. He had so little time with each of his teachers and no real point that he passed that he could say, "Now I am a Jedi." Humans have a need for closure, even if it is a ceremony ("Now you are married") that has no other meaning except for the participants. Whatever Luke has been taught will be synthesized into the new Order.

Debbie Kittle: I'm so glad you made it to MediaWest. Thanks for bringing your dolls. I'm still drooling over them! (It's ruining my marriage, too!) Now, we have to get your butt self into a costume.

I love the whole question of how Vader found out about Luke and whether Palpatine found out first. I think it was after the Death Star but only because I think Darthie would have moved heaven and earth to find his son, especially since

he had political aspirations. Even if he'd known about Luke being hidden on Tatooine and kept mum so his boss wouldn't find out, I don't think he'd have sent stormtroopers to burn the Larses out, just in case sonny was home.

I guess the assumption is that when Luke announced himself to Leia on the Death Star, either Vader or Palpatine connected it to the Dark Lord's past life. I like to think they ran a DNA scan on the discarded stormtrooper armor just to be sure.

Z. P. Florian: Are you having trouble getting *Thousand Worlds*? I might be able to get you copies if you need them.

If Cheree doesn't write that story about Darthie not remembering his life as Anakin, I wish you would. And illustrate it, too. The world needs more Vader fiction. ((Ed: *I hereby throw this idea open to anyone who wants it! I'm sure I will never write this story, so Z.P. or anyone who wants to—have at it!*))

I love the image of Jabba as a Rhett Butler type. Cross-racing is a handy term that covers a galaxy's worth of activity. I'd imagine that most races and sexes go for their cultural norms but, as in every population, there's a percentage of variance—same-sex mating, different race mating. With such a wide variety to choose from, I'll bet within that percentage, it's anything goes, if physically possible, anyway.

I loved your poll—next time print it on a book page so we can remove it. I'd fill it out several different ways, depending on the mood I'm in. Now, if you could do one for Darthie... ((Ed: *My fault that Z.P.'s fan poll was printed the way it was. I'd hoped to have it detachable/removable but layout problems prevented it.*))

P.S. Your wizard costume was great! You should do Yoda (or someone of that race—whatever it was) next. You're the only person I feel really tall next to! Hope you didn't get killed in the blaster battle.

Marti Schuller: Glad to hear you're writing again. Pant! Pant! (At least, I'm not drooling anymore...)

A. G. Steyn: So, if we carry the Wizard of Oz analogy even further, would that make Vader the Wicked Witch of the West? They both dress in black. Yoda could be the token Munchkin. But how about Glinda the Good Witch? I vote for Beru, after she divorces that grouch Owen.

I agree that Darthie's bone dry humor is part of his appeal. It's got a lot to do with black leather, too, but his sarcasm is also an integral

part of his personality. Palpatine is humorless (unless you count that cackling) so Vader comes off as the soul of wit.

Tell Claudia "hi" from another die-hard Darth fan.

Nora Mayers: Hello from another Eastern Enclaver. Glad to hear you go to cons around here. Maybe we can all get together and show 'em SW is still kicking.

Ming Wathne: Good point about the responsibilities of each individual. If Vader had lived after finding Anakin again, I bet he'd need some pretty intensive therapy to come to terms with what he'd done.

I wonder about all this "forever will it dominate your destiny" stuff. Sure, it dominated Vader's destiny, but he still stepped off the dark path. If he'd spent the rest of his life making up for the evil he'd done, would he have evaporated too like Ben and Yoda? Human Christianity is concerned with redemption. I like to think the Force offers it as well.

Jennifer Moore: Great to see you at MWC! We need to get you into a costume, girl! Ever thought how you'd look, say, in an orange flight suit?

I'd never considered Ben's inclusion in matters rebel until you brought it up. For sure, Luke would have been different. I think Ben would have spent most of his time training Luke so that Luke could begin training others. Even if the character survived the first draft, I'd bet he'd have been killed off in the sequels just like Yoda. There's something awfully appealing about being the last of the Jedi, and I think Lucas killed all the others off so Luke could be just that.

Michelle Malkin: I love Brother Cadfael, too. I'd love to see a spin-off series about Olivier, his son. The Cadfael books are so full of gentle humor and lively characters, not to mention young love, that they're irresistible. The author has a newsletter that I subscribed to for a while but it wasn't so much fun as the books.

Tim Blaes: What other rumors have you heard about the new SUPERMAN movie? I'd love to see syndicated SUPERBOY Gerard Christopher get a crack at the role.

Love your idea of Linda Hamilton as Luke's mom. Now, if they could get Arnie as young Anakin...

Maggie Nowakowska: Great idea about a history of SW fandom. For me, it would be helpful

to know who the folks are who are now being welcomed back in the pages of SE. A panel would be perfect. It isn't too early to be planning for MWC#13.

Well, I've gone on long enough and I want to get this in under the deadline.

## Crossracing

Tim Blaes  
Route 6, Box 294  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Jacqueline Taero: If Leia knew that she should ask for Ben Kenobi, then going into the nearest cantina to ask directions might not have been a bad idea. There is also the possibility that she could have checked into a hotel, sat cross-legged on the floor, and mentally broadcast: "Mork calling Orsen, come in—" Er, I mean, "Leia calling Obi-Wan. You're my only hope." What if Bail didn't tell her about Kenobi? What if she found out herself? (By the way, was Bail Organa mentioned in the movie, or is that name the invention of A.D. Foster? I think they used it in the radio show.) I can't help but wonder how Ben and Leia would have interacted.

Luke Skywalker and the Last Crusade? Sounds like a Monty Python movie.

Debbie Kittle: I truly hope ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN is not the last Pern book McCaffrey will do. I suppose she might do a direct sequel to DRAGONS-DAWN. It seems most of her books coming out now are collaborations.

Z. P. Florian: I try very hard to choose my words and not say anything rude or snappish, but sometimes I fail. I don't like the way my comments to you came out last ish, and I hope I didn't offend you. I've used up three electric typers in the last four years, each lasting less than the one before it. Now I'm back to a manual. There are some advantages to a manual, but making things easier for Cheree is not one of them.

Still, even I wonder what it would be like if we were all linked by a fax-network. MediaWest

progress reports might come out regularly and at less cost. Editors/artists/writers could hash things out more easily. Yeah, it could be interesting. ((Ed: For what it's worth, I plan on getting a fax machine as soon as I can afford it—probably in a year or so, if I manage to get more of my bills paid off. Then, anyone who wants to fax their LoCs into SE can do so.))

Re "Crossracing": No one has ever, to my knowledge, accused Spock of being the product of beastiality. If Leia ran off with Chewie, it would be a different matter. It's the form that sets off the warning bells in some (most?) people. Pointed ears and green blood are not as disturbing as a body covered with hair.

Marti Schuller: One could make a strong case either way, regarding Luke's alleged virginity. Even attractive men can be socially/sexually inept. There don't seem to be many women on rebel bases, and their sexual behavior is unknown. On the other hand, if word got out that the pilot who blew the Death Star was a virgin...

Video is wonderful, but the true, best place to see a movie is in a theater, especially b/w films. As most viewers don't have cable, the subtleties of b/w are lost in bad reception. CASABLANCA has been making a round in theaters lately and, though it will probably not make it to Hendersonville, I'll be in line if it does.

Catherine Churko: Yes, I got that cartoon. Sorry it took so long to get back to you on that; it was my first and only contribution so far, though Carolyn Golledge said she will update an Indiana Jones crossover she did years back. Perhaps if you design me a cover for A-CROSS THE FORCE, the Zine Gods will smile on me and grant me a boon.

Did you catch sight of the Galactica in "Unification"?

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: It used to be, in the old Superman comics, whenever they did a dream or "imaginary story" that featured offspring of the Man of Steel, he always had twins, a son and a daughter. They broke this tradition only once, to my remembrance, with his first-born being a girl. If it had been up to me, Leia would indeed have had twins, but they should have both been girls.

Maggie Nowakowska: Maybe you could somehow find time to put in print that fascinating tale you were telling me issue before last.

Anne McCaffrey's relationship with her fans has a lot to do with how they cooperate with her. Whose wishes would you most likely respect,

someone who sits way on high, surrounded by minions who keep fans away while insinuating threats over vague rules, or someone who moves among their fans, who says, "I really like what you are doing here, but please don't do this, that or this"?

Cheree: At the few cons I can go to these days, I usually find myself talking to the dealers about Creation Cons (or "Cretin Cons", as they prefer). One dealer who sells stills was confronted by a representative of Creation, who made the expected threats. The dealer said, "This is a weekend, so both our lawyers are not working today. On Monday, your lawyer can call my lawyer. Until then, get out of my face." Their lawyer did not call his lawyer.

The primary tools of Creation are rumor, intimidation, and disinformation. "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain" is their motto.

In the April issue of DISCOVER, it said that pouring molasses into the tritium injection hole of a warhead would make it nuclear safe. I just thought you should know. ((Ed: Thanks. I'll keep that in mind next time I'm around any nuclear warheads.))

MediaWest turned out quite well this year, I think. Things went better than I would have thought possible with a hotel that never had to deal with us before. I like having twice the function space, and more stores within walking distance. On a personal level, the only sour note was that my convention sweatshirt was lost/stolen. It was only the second convention shirt I have ever bought, and the first for myself. \*sigh\*

That's quite a daughter you have, Cheree. She knows how to dress for a convention, is friendly and outgoing, and will argue with a signpost! All the fannish fine qualities. I wonder how long it will be before she sends in LoCs to SE. ((Ed: Well, she takes after her mother, after all. And I don't know about LoCs, but on the way home, she wrote her first filk—"Swamp Thing, you make my heart sing!"))

Be excellent to each other...



Matthew Whitney  
1003 Allen Street  
Springfield, MA 01118

April 23, 1992

Such a fine issue last time...where to begin? Jacqueline Taero had a wonderful letter, producing many ideas. Concerning Tatooine: There seems little on that dust ball to make it worth stopping at, one naturally wonders why there are humans on it at all? Actually, I should not say "humans", but instead should use the term "non-native beings." Also, I do not think humanity is wide-spread in the SW universe in the same manner as it is in ST. Digressing, in ST, humans seem to have been seeded throughout the galaxy by an ancient race, while in SW they seem to have never lost touch with whole populations, to the point where even the existence of other races is the stuff of legend, at best.

With that basic assumption, I see Tatooine originally being settled for use as a space port. This would entail only isolated outposts, with no real national government. Tuskins and Jawas are probably native, and were treated similarly to American Indians when the Europeans arrived. One can only imagine what Jawas did before high technology was introduced, like the Indian before the horse. Were the original settlements of the off-worlders legitimate or were they outside the law? The latter strikes my fancy, at the moment. Tatooine is so off the beaten path, it seems ideal for a smuggler port during the waning of the Old Republic and it has survived into Imperial times.

What authority there is was under Jabba, who might've been the most recent of a line of mob rulers. The Empire does have troops stationed there, and I can even imagine a military governor. Right in the hip pocket of Jabba, of course, content to let things flow whichever way they may—so long as the Empire receives their cut.

The population would not necessarily be all criminal. Maybe the original settlers were, but from there children would be born, a culture would develop, and some would turn away from the way things had gone before—perhaps until it were only a small illegal core, surrounded by legitimate, hard-working folk. That's where the Lars fit in.

Would Owen own his farm? What with raiding Tuskins being held off just barely, I see ownership no stronger than the average sod-buster of the 1800's. With that immediate threat at hand, Jabba would've been more like a railroad baron.

When Owen sold his moisture crop, a cut would go to the boss, but otherwise the Lars would be too small potatoes to draw the attention of Jabba, let alone the even more distant Empire.

How is the Empire/Emperor viewed by the common ...er...being? This question digs up why is the Empire the black hats, anyhow? My gut tells me that the average citizen would be basically content as long as there are two wampas in every pot and a landspeeder in the garage. If the evil of this Empire is not directed toward you, you may turn a blind eye to the rumors, so long as the trains run on time. I don't think we have to look far for parallels. As for the Emperor, as the Empire...so goes the Emperor. His popularity would wax/wane with prosperity. And what could the populace do if they were not happy? That is what the Saga is showing—a sleeping giant awakening. Look at the American Revolution, which brewed from 1763. How about the U.S.'s move to end slavery, which was waiting in the wings during the Constitutional Convention of 1787? It may not happen overnight, but the will of the people is (almost) impossible to stop.

Another topic of Jacqueline's, Yoda as an evil sorcerer, hating humankind, and undermining the Jedi. I categorically disagree—but it is a valid stand to take. I'm sure you could find loads of historical parallels, but to me this would spoil the fun of it. I'm not going to say you cannot argue the case, though. It does take the Saga and stand it on its head. Let's see what'll fall out of the pockets, shall we? I'm reminded of the examinations of Kenobi's methods. It's fascinating how many angles the Saga can be examined from.

Debbie Kittle and all the others who thought the end of ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN was emotional, you should hear Anne's reading of it on the audio tape! She's breaking up as much as we are. For me, I'll never hear "Turn, Turn, Turn" again without thinking of this book.

About the recent CON situation, I was going to do more complaining about pro-cons, but I think the best thing to do is to start avoiding them and hope if they don't go away, they'll just leave the fan-cons alone.

Cheree, continuing the discussion of Leia's destination at the beginning of ANH, your last comments (in your ed. comments in my LOC) are my thoughts, as well. Namely, Leia was on her way home to Alderaan via Tatooine. That seems most plausible to me.

In re Vader's saving Luke also being "his first

real chance to destroy Palpatine". Yes! It definitely takes much of the altruism out of Vader's actions, but it works!

Reactions to THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES: Very positive, based on only the first two segments (rest are on tape, awaiting viewing). Old Indy is great, and both the young actors are perfect in their roles. It's not a clone of the films, nor should it be. Ten-year-old Indy's segments strike me as very Hardy Boys-like (books, not show), and make for good fun. The love story of the London episode was really sweet, especially the end. I'd initially been skeptical of what I thought would be awkward use of historical characters, but it does work. So far, the series plays like good juvenile fiction—enjoyable for both kids and adults, as well. Jones, Sr. strikes me not exactly as I'd imagined him—I picture a brilliant thinker, but a wretched teacher (based on how poorly he and young Indy got along). I don't see the rift that was between them, resolved years later in TLC. But, on the whole, I'm very pleased. ((Ed: I think the glue that held the family together was Anna, Indy's mother. The early scenes we see are before her death and she and Henry are obviously in love. I think Henry's grief caused him to sink himself into his work and shut out his son, thereby causing the rift between them.))

The STAR WARS™  
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St. Louis, MO 63139-2748



A. G. Steyn  
Paul-Ruecker-Straße 69  
4100 Duisberg 1  
Germany

Hi ho—and welcome to the mophead (uh, Muppet) show!

First the bad news: I've survived the surgery. I know it grieves you all, because that means you'll have to put with yet another of my fine LoC's, but that's life!

Shame on you, Cheree...for making this zine so big and fat. I'll never be able to discuss everything I want to discuss and add my smartass remarks to everybody's letters in time. When didcha say this LoC has to reach you? June 1st??? Are you serious??? By now, you oughta know that there's no sense in trying to deadline a native Corellian. But you're obviously one who'll probably also keep trying to teach a wardrobe how to tapdance...

Errata: I knew there's something animalic in that Jones guy, the way he keeps turning me on... but to count him among the jungle beasts is putting it a bit harsh, kiddo! See, Indy...that's whatcha get from monkeying around...!!!

And now to you, people...

Jacqueline Taero: Re your answers to Sally Syrjala (recycled story ideas): You talk about the "wedding night" scenario, then ask "What if nothing happened?" Well, the way I know Leia, she's going to beg Jabba's forgiveness for rescuing that useless "decoration piece" and then give General Solo a well-aimed kick that'll send him nose-diving from the Ewok tree-hut straight down to the forest floor. THUD!

Re your answers to Z. P. Florian (Kenobi/Yoda): Couldn't it also be possible that Ben and Yoda just gave Wormie the "choice" to either go to Bespin to help Leia/Han and face Vader alone, or to stay and complete the training as sort of a test of Luke's true willpower, faith and loyalty to his friends...a test to see if he was really the stuff Jedi are made of...or not worth the time/energy investment of further training? The keeping Luke at his place by ole Ben to ensure the kid's survival while the Imps were frying the Larses to a crisp is a provoking, but smart thought. It does make a lot of sense, even if it does make Kenobi appear as being a rather carbonite-pit-hearted sonofabantha. After all, to sit around and twist thumbs while one's own brother and sis-in-law get murdered does take a lot of cold blood.

Re your answers to Wanda Lybarger (alien/human Jedi): Squeak! Never even thought about this possibility—until you two people brought it up. Very, very interesting. Now, here's a fat chance to add new twists and turns to the saga...

What if...the Force is an alien philosophy espoused by humans? If the Force is alien in nature, then how come humans can utilize this Force at all? If the force is a true religion or philosophy, it can be espoused by every thinking being...the way one can become a Christian, a Jew, a Muslim, a Buddhist, etc. Or a communist, fascist, liberal... But if the Force is a PSI-phenomenon, then you have to have a certain inbred/inborn talent to utilize it. I guess, to truly believe in and espouse the Force the way Yoda teaches it, one would have to be a PSI-blessed pantheist. [Hey, I am a pantheist, but unfortunately my PSI has its limits.] So, if Yoda wanted to (subconsciously or deliberately) sabotage the humans he trained—(a) wouldn't that automatically put him on the same level as "Uncle Palpie" (i.e., lead to the Dark Side of the Force)? And (b) then why hasn't Yoda himself tried to use his powers to destroy Palpatine/Vader? Oh...by the way, how come Palpie had only one trainee... Darthie? If Yoda had his share of pupils (most of whom obviously so badly prepared they went down the drain long time ago), then how come Palpie couldn't find anymore gifted people he could wreak havoc on? Wouldn't it have been "a great asset" to the Empire if there had been not one, but 1000 Sithlords? Hey—wait...in the novelization of ANH, there's a hint that there actually were more Sithlords than just Vader, but our darling Darthie being the most evil of 'em all. So maybe Palpie failed as miserably as Ben/Yoda, since—in the end—good ole Anakin played windmill once more and turned back to the light??? And what was that in ROTJ with Palpatine wanting to show "Glowwormie" the "true nature of the Force"? Was Palpie correct and Yoda the butthead of the galaxy???

Dammit—the more I keep thinking about how to solve the given questions, the more problems pop up... Who started this mess? Jacqueline, Wanda... "front and center"! Just about had it with the two of you. Instead of giving me some fun and relaxation, you're forcing my mushy brain to work! Darthie...sic 'em!

Z. P. Florian: Re Mesarthim and the Good Ship Fandom: "More daring, more exploration, more experimentation and more tolerance towards unusual avenues..." Easier said than done with "Big

Brother" George watching over you...

Re Marti Schuller/Treena: Another one who thinks this new character Jared is great?! Well, so did I. More, please, Treena.

Re Michelle Malkin (Jabba the Hutt): "I think, for a Hutt, Jabba is extremely handsome." Geeze, Z.P., just how many Hutts do you know?? Do you have many contacts to them? I might be interested to get acquainted with a "good looking, wealthy Hutt". So would you consider introducing me to one? Tho' I must admit, the Huttese way of "French kissing" needs some getting adjusted to (maybe that's why Oola was a bit uncooperative. After all, Leia wasn't too enthusiastic about "Old Froggyface's" tongue, so why should Oola have been? Well, come to think about it...maybe I ought to skip that Jabba-business for a while, since at the moment I would have a pretty hard time to even open my mouth far enough for Wormie's tongue, let alone Jabba's!).

Han and Bib? Ha, now that's something I'm dying to see, read about, witness in person... Just watch it, spacer...that Fortuna guy has sharp teeth! Is Sy Snootles pretty (does Han think so??) Well, depends how long ole Solo was trapped in his spicecrate or in the Imperials' slammer... if he was locked up long enough, everything will look good to him. Even Darthie or Boba!!

Jawa prostitutes? Sure. They will take credits, but also metal scrap and droid parts. Trouble is, you'll have to put a clamp on your schnozzle to survive their natural perfume!

Wookiees will eat everything—except Sithlords and Corellians. Han's first love a Wookess? That could give us a clue as to how he got his scars...

Yes, you can crossbreed Corellians and Ewoks. It's like with Horses and Jacks. It's either a Corelok (sire a Corellian, dam an Ewok) or an Ewollian (sire an Ewok, dam a Corellian).

And no, I certainly will not be the one to stop you. After all, your queer ideas are right up my alley. Go ahead!

Re Catherine Churko (quarter-page illos "Missing" — vol 2): Yeah, where were they? ("What kept you?") And damn, yes—Urhausen should do another WC. Hey, Z.P.—think we can somehow persuade the ole gal? A session on the scanner grid ...2 months encased in carbonite... 5 months duty on the Death Star, cleaning the latrines... There must be a way!

Are there "Light Lords"? Yes, of course. Nowadays, with everything being labeled "light" (Coke "light", Pepsi "light"), why shouldn't there be Sithlords "light"?

Re Me! I will try to come up with some SW stuff in German for you, okay? By the time this zine here sees the light of day, you should already have received a personal letter from moi. And I will tackle the "Luke gets l...loved to death" story—as soon as you put the Han/Bib story on paper! Square deal??

Fen Poll: Luke is not getting the girl because...he's in love with Admiral Piett, but then, so is his Dad! (Well, as we all know, there are several reasons applying here...of course, are there no decent girls around. Leia is not available—and we gals of the fandom are not decent. Period! Then the fan writers are not up to the job...they are too busy putting Han through his callisthenics!)

IMO, Luke should get a...an ANYTHING! Of course, a very pretty and smart girl his age would be best for the kid's heart. An older, experienced, voluptuous woman would be better than nothing at all. Remember the interview with Mark H. in which he stated that "it looks as if Leia's the only woman in the galaxy. If you don't hit it off with her, you'll become a monk!"

Marti Schuller: Re Z.P. Florian (Leia's remembering Kenobi): R2 seemed to know exactly which route would eventually lead him to Kenobi's place, as he tried to go there after splitting up with Threepio, and again went in that same direction after escaping from the Larses' farm. So, that would indicate that our beloved little droid wasn't just jettisoned into the wild, blue yonder, but had excellent information about Tatooine and Kenobi stored somewhere inside his rusty innards. Though, one wonders what would have happened, had the escape pod crashed on the far side of Tatooine, thousands of miles away from Kenobi's home?

Excellent description of how Vader might have been controlled by Palpie using Luke, i.e., the information about the kid.

Re my letter... A gift with strings attached. Hey, never that about that. Good idea. Thanks. Luke sterile, but not impotent? Fine. But that still doesn't provide him with a willing, lusty soul he could bed. The Jedi is willing, but the girls are rare!

Catherine Churko: So, telekinesis doesn't work for you, either? Geez—am I ever glad to hear I'm not the only one who keeps staring at things, hoping they may finally give up their resistance and get moving all by themselves. It would make rearranging furniture or just simple clean-up jobs a cinch... But the Force is not with us (it's just behind us, making sure we don't



take things easy and have a nice leisurely life!)).

You and your dad are progressing with your trapeze act? Congrats! Keep practicing and who knows, some day, you two might get a job with the LucasBerger Circus ("Humans, Beasts, Sensations! A new program every day!").

Ming Wathne: Re Matthew Whitney: I quote: "The Jedi were the coloratura sopranos of the Force". Unless somebody out of camera range did some very nasty things to Luke, Ben, Yoda and Darthie that altered their voices, the boys sound more like baritones and even bass singers to me. But, if they really are able to sing tenor to a dog-whistle, then we can stop all our musings about why the Jedi/Sith lead such pious lives. Oh, you mean I misunderstood something here, Ming? Sorry! But I've got a one-track mind.

Re Barbara Brayton: You are not alone, Ming. There is at least one more Desert Rat in SW fandom. Me! Take after my old man here, who detests even looking at snow, much less shovel it! Debbie K. and Barbara can have Hoth; I'll accompany you to Tatooine.

Re Catherine Churko: What is this "Thanksgiving Special" you mentioned? Is that identical with the X-mas special CBS aired in 1978?? Or is that something else entirely?? I tell you—it's the pits to live on the outer rim and miss 3/4 of what's going on in the bright center of the universe!

Jennifer Moore: What if's...ahhh—here comes the fun. Questions no one knows any answers to are the spice of life. Let's have some, then...

What if Ben Kenobi made it off the Death Star along with the others? He would have driven poor Han bananas. That's for sure. What role would he play in the Rebellion? The one of a wiseass, sending others into battle with a smile and the famous "last words": "I wish I could be with you in this battle. But, unfortunately...but the Force is with you—always!" (For references, please see the wisenheimer holding the briefings in HANOVER STREET.)

Would he be a political advisor? That, I think, would suit him fine. I can already picture him in the senate. Just another over-the-hill politician is all this galaxy needs... Would he be a military strategist? Hmm—he failed training Anakin and he failed in previous military missions as a General (so it occurs to me). Personally, I just don't see him masterminding a blitzkrieg to leave the Imps speechless.

Form a Jedi school? No way! Not after the "Skywalker Affair." How would his presence change

Luke's role? He probably would have accompanied the poor baby to Dagobah and gotten on his case together with Yoda (maybe even arguing with little ole Muddypaws over how to raise and train the Jedi-puppy). It would have been interesting, though, if Ben and Luke had faced Vader and Palpie on the second Death Star together. They could have brought Yoda along as well—as the umpire. (Yeah, Solo—you and Baron Calrissian would have been allowed to handle the pari-mutuel betting on the outcome of the battle.) Anyway, I think it would have made for a rather nervous and exhausted Wormie, had Ben stuck around any longer.

*...and don't you dare tell ME 'bout work piling up at the office/at home...I'm in over my ears!*

Matthew Whitney: The idea of inviting SW folks to a con is GREAT—it would be even greater if that con was held during my vacation time (usually in September) somewhere in the Southwest U.S. ... with my luck, the only con with SW actors attending will be held in June and somewhere near Vladivostock...

That "family Lars" bit (BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY) is very interesting. Thanks for looking this up.

Re Debbie Kittle (Leia/3PO): DMD, 3PO knew perfectly well who she was, but was—for once—smart enough to keep his beak shut about it. After all, he didn't know Luke that well at that point, and to tell the kid everything about the princess could have caused her and both droids additional trouble. Luke could easily have been in support of the Empire. Looks can be deceiving, so just because Luke looked like a "gee-whiz" country pumpkin was no guarantee for being sympathetic with the Alliance.

Re Z.P. Florian (Darth/Palpie [I should drop the slash here...I'm about to offend a lot of nice folks...] and what the Ed. had to say about it): If Vader wasn't interested in saving Luke's life, but rather in destroying the Emperor...then how does it fit in that—although Darthie had the chance to—he didn't destroy Leia on the first Death Star (and later in the Cloud City)? Let's mull these hard facts over for a while...

It is written that "if Anakin were to have any offspring..." (quoting Ben here). Any would mean either boy (Luke) or girl (Leia). Leia, for that matter ("The Force runs strong in my family..." [Luke], would mean as much of a threat to Palpatine as would Luke. But, for reasons unknown, Palpie showed no interest in Leia. Why not? Is this a clue that "Uncle Palpie" did not

know who Leia Organa really was (whose daughter she was)? Did he know, but somehow didn't consider her strong enough with the Force to cause any trouble? Or was Palpie in reality not nearly as almighty and foreseeing as he wanted everybody to believe he was?

Darthie twice missed the opportunity to kill Leia. Not only that, he actually saved her life on the first Death Star. When Tarkin ordered her execution, Vader intervened—much in the same way he did when the Emperor admonished that "the son of Skywalker must not become a Jedi." Besides, listening to Vader and watching him closely, one gets the feeling that he has a ball when Leia tongue-lashes the Grand Moff and even lies to him about the Rebel base on Dantooine. Listen to the triumph in Darth's voice when he points out to Tarkin that he knew the princess wasn't going to give in to Tarkin's threats. Like a proud father! This could very well mean that Vader knew who Leia and Luke were.

When Leia was tortured on the first DS, Vader obviously stayed with her...as if to make sure the hardshells wouldn't overdo things. (Remember, Vader left the torture chamber at Cloud City while Han was tortured—a criminal from the Corellian gutters whom the Dark Lord had no interest in except use him as bait to reel in sonnyboy Skywalker). Remember also—when on DS #1, Leia tried to lunge forward at Tarkin upon hearing the command to destroy Alderaan—how Darthie pulled her back. As if to say, "Stay here, kid—that action will not do you or the cause any good". And at Cloud City, Vader finally ordered, "Bring Princess Leia and the Wookiee to my ship." Why? The Emperor wanted Luke. Jabba wanted Han. Why did he want Leia? As additional bait for Luke? Or was there another reason? Let's see...

Possibility (a): Darth knew who Leia and Luke were. He sensed the Force in both and hoped for a chance to turn both of them to the Dark Side to overthrow Palpie and rule the galaxy as a family business.

Possibility (b): Darth knew who Leia and Luke were and hoped that his kids could somehow help him to make the turn back towards the Light Side, as he was unable to accomplish this task alone.

Both scenarios would work out if—as assumed—Palpie's self-esteem was higher than his Force-skills. (Remember what Luke said to Palpie shortly before the final battle: "Your over-confidence is your weakness.")

But these scenarios crumble when we remember

that Darthie was quite surprised to learn from Luke's thoughts that there was a sister! Oops... if Darth knew and Luke, but not about Leia...then what was the reason to spare Leia from being executed? Did Leia remind him of his wife long lost? Did he sense a strong Force running in her and thought she could possibly make a fine ally against Palpie or to turn Luke (of whom—if you read the novel thoroughly—Vader had very high esteem and was very proud of, if sometimes very annoyed with) to the Dark Side?

One thing seems to be sure: There was no reason to hold Leia ransom. Darth wasn't after money—like Jabba, for instance. Neither was Palpie. Political power? Palpie and Darth had more than enough of that—and with Alderaan gone the way of the Jedi, the "brain" (or heart and soul) of the Rebellion was pretty much eliminated. Except for baiting Luke, Leia served no purpose. But before the battle in which Luke destroyed the first DS, Vader didn't give a hoot about his son. Actually, he acted (purposefully or unknowingly) as if Luke Skywalker didn't even exist. So there goes any reason as to why Leia was held captive on the Death Star after the destruction of Alderaan. At that point a swap "Leia for Luke" wasn't even in question.

Ahh...how about Darthie knowing who Leia was—and just using the "you have a twin sister" line (as if he'd just that minute discovered the secret) to shake Luke in his boots and get a handle on him to make him give up and turn towards the Dark. Remember, Luke did get very nervous when Darthie revealed the secret so well kept up to that point.

ENOUGH OF THAT!!!! You people are driving me Jawas with your constant "what if's" and "why's". If this keeps up, I'll have to buy a brain (up to know I somehow managed to get along without one).

Leanne Wingo: Re Cheree (job hunt): Lotsa luck, pal! I'll keep my grimy cliffhangers crossed for you—and anybody else on the lookout for new job opportunities! And the ancient "16" articles on this Hamill character I found rummaging through some age-old zines at a friend's place. Glad to hear you liked them.

Re Marti (Mos Eisley; "Missing"): Mos Eisley is a very nice, decent place...until you happen to be in its red light district when the Corellian pirates hit town! "Missing" is a MUST READ for SW fans (especially the bruise/ mendie inclined clientele). I can only recommend it. ((Ed: We've been discussing "Missing" by Catriona Campbell for months, but no one has ever said what zine it's

*in! I've never read it and want to!! Somebody give us this info!!)*

And how can you dare make my mouth drool by talking about a story obviously very well written ("Her Ladyship") when said story hasn't been "zined" yet? You are a cruel person.

Re Catherine Churko ("The Day George..."): HALVIES! Another story (a silly one to boot) kept hidden from me. Do I have to send a certain person over to you or will you surrender the stories to me without experiencing slight breathing difficulties???

Re ME: Yeah, I went to see the Wild Animal Park. And no, they did not keep me there. After all, they only keep wild animals, not rabid, howling mad ones. Hey, quit sniffing. The way it looks, I'll probably hit town (San Diego) again come September. (And now you're scared, are you? Well, what did you expect? I'm like a bad credit—or Boba Fett: I keep turning up. Usually at the least appropriate moments.)

Maggie Nowakowska: Re reprint zine: Sorry, but I highly doubt that I can be of any help here. But buying the zine? Sure. When did you say the first copy will hit the market?

Re Nora Mayers (Han/Lando): Personally, I do see a chance that Lando came from a well-to-do background (noblemen...think about the Baron-administrator thing) and was probably the black sheep of the family. Maybe one of those pampered young men who don't really know what else to do with their time and money than to spend it on fast cars (space dragsters?), sports (of the expensive kind), casino gambling, wine, women and song? Lando the Space Playboy?

But Han? Han is certainly not the son of wealthy, respectable parents. His background is questionable as is his lifestyle. Still, with Han being a gutter rat and Lando being a nobleman (con man), there were enough chances for them to rub elbows and do unholy things together. Lando took to the bad—where Han already was from the beginning. That's how they met. Lando (the "respectable one") finally had a chance to—and did—return to a decent lifestyle. Han had nothing to return to.

Re Learne Wingo (Leia's reaction): True! They never should have told her anything about the sister/daughter business and then WHAMMO! After all, that's what Kersh did with poor ole Darthie. Dave Prowse never knew what all this "...I'll never join you..." business was all about—until he saw the finished film. Funny, his comment to Kersh: (with a friendly thump on the head) "Why

didn't you tell me?" The only one who knew about Luke's relationship to Darthie was Mark Hamill... but he too learned the shocking facts immediately before stepping in front of the camera. So he was probably still shell-shocked when the cameras started rolling.

As for the next SW films...did you (or anyone out there in fandomland) read the latest edition on the Lucasfilm Clubzine? There is a line that says that HEIR is not to be considered gospel... and that the sequels to the existing trilogy will be based on what George himself comes up with. Sequels?? Not pre-, but sequels?? Hint, hint?? C'mon, don't let us die dumb, George. Tell us all about it!

Re various answer-letters (Force sides, etc.): One question that just entered my mushy mind...if Han would be strong with the Force—Skywalker style—then would he be a Darksider, like Darthie? Is a criminal (petty criminal or really heavy) automatically with the Dark Side when he possesses Force-skills? After all, piracy/armed robbery and murder (2nd degree, if you recall the circumstances of how Greedo got fried), conspiracy, terrorism against the Empire...there's a lot of DARK STUFF going on in Captain Solo's world.

B. J. Evans: Yeah, the INDY books McGregor turns out are pretty good. Much better than their German-made counterparts, concocted by a fellow named W. Hohlbein. Hohlkopf would be a better name for him ("hollow head", for those of you who only speak Huttese).

Re Matthew (Solo and the Force): Agreed! I don't see Han using the Force—or possessing it in anyway, either. The only things he believes in are (a) himself and (b) that 2 lbs. of meat and 2 pts of water, boiled for 1 hour, will make one strong broth!

Corellian fever? In ST:TNG? Wahoo! Now I know for sure where "outrageous Okona" and his battered freighter hailed from. Always suspected he was from the galactic hellhole. Actually, IMO, that guy would make a nice grown son for Han and Leia. But no...better not. Poor ole Leia has trouble enough keeping Han on a tight leash. No additional amusement needed!

Would a victim of Corellian fever want to be cured? This, I think, depends on what the symptoms of C.F. are...if it shows in getting the hots for certain pirates, I would sue the doctor trying to cure me. On the other hand: if the symptoms were green pimples on my nose or allergic reactions to Corellian men, I would undergo even

the most painful and humiliating treatments to get rid of that crud!

And the personal side...

Thanks...to Ming and Da Butthead for the copy of WC#7. Great zine, big fun. Luv ya!!

Thanks...to Melanie for trying to help me with the X-mas special.

I hope you all did vote for the 1991 Star Awards and supported Judith as good as possible.

Congrats to Georgie-Baby for winning the Oscar. Boy, was he moved emotionally by the proceedings. For a while, it looked as if he desperately wanted to throw himself into Stevie's arms and weep like a willow. Cute! Hey, they should have sent Harrison up there, too. Then the winning threesome could have howled at the moon in unison. We know just how good HF is at shedding tears (at least in front of a camera...). There was even the fat chance for sweepstakes: Whose will be the last dry eye in the audience?

I dared to venture into my local computer store to have a look-see at the offered machinery... especially at laser printers of the better kind. Geez—the printer that appealed to me cost more than the computer...forget it. For that kind of money, I can just as well have a nose job done. Unless I find a really reasonable printer (maybe an excellent used one), I will skip the whole idea. I'm not going to spend more than 5,000 DM (\$1 = about 1.75 DM) on the complete system (computer, monitor, keyboard, printer and the MS software). After all, I don't make my money robbing banks or smuggling Kessel spice. I could pass my hat among the zine editors...maybe they'll part with their credits to get their stories and LoCs on a floppy disk instead of tons of typed paper. No chance, huh? Hmm...but it was a fair try, you gotta give me that.

Okay, I'm outa here. This LoC is much longer than what I intended it to be when I started out two days ago. Forgive me, Cheree!

Take care, you all. Read you next time around. Until then—Happy Han-Bashing, Luke-Drooling, Ben-Blaming, Darthie-Pitying, Palpie-Accusing, Yoda-Doubting, Leia-Impregnating, Droid-Deactivating, etc. etc.



Michelle Malkin

1410 Tyson Avenue, 2nd Fl.

Philadelphia, PA 19111-4519

May 29, 1992

I doubt that this letter is even going to make it under the wire, but I'll try anyway. The last few weeks have been full of kittens and stray cats and now I'm having a gang of friends over this weekend. If this letter gets done at all, it will be between trips to the markets, cleaning up the apartment and prying kittens off of electrical wires. The kittens are almost 7 weeks old and are the children of Jenna, my orange tabby stray that I've taken in, and Duke Denver Wimsey-cat, a black and white cat about town. The four kittens were known as Groucho, Harpo, Chico and Zeppo until the last two became Dayna and Soolin. Groucho insists that his name is Spock. Harpo says that he likes being called Harpo. All four kittens are going to good homes—people that I work with. In the meantime, typing a letter with one kitten clawing its way up my leg while another does its best to experience electrocution is a true-life adventure.

Several of my friends made it to MediaWest this year, so I now have a nice pile of zines that one brought back for me. I asked her to raid Bill Hupe's and Arnie and Leah's tables, and she carried out my request to perfection. Now to find time to read all these zines!

Jacqueline Taero: When Luke first arrived on Dagobah (while he was scooping mud out of R2D2's eye, if I remember right), he commented that something felt familiar about the place. Has anyone commented on this during the time that I was away from this zine? It's possible that Luke may have spent part of his early childhood, before he lived with Beru and Owen Lars, on Dagobah. Maybe his mother and Ben Kenobi took him there to hide him from DV until they were certain that he didn't know of Luke's existence.

Z. P. Florian: I wonder if Oola and that greasy-looking stooge of Jabba's are the youthful stage of Huttese development. Will Bib Fortuna survive to become Bib the Hutt? As to the Fen Poll: IMO, Luke is not getting the girl because he is busy learning to be a Jedi and getting over this crush on sis. When you posit the possibility that Jedi don't have a natural sex life, are you hinting that they have an unnatural one? Can I buy the zine? By the way, what is a decent girl...or boy? IMO, Luke should get a smart human

woman rebel fighter who can help him and be helped by him. I chose a human woman just in case the happy couple wants to have kids, unless the radiation tossed around in the death battle with Palpatinky rendered this a moot point.

Cheree: THE PHILADELPHIA STORY and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE are two of my all-time favorite films along with BRINGING UP BABY, tons of musicals, anything with Paul Muni, Leslie Howard, or Charlie Chaplin, any Robin Hood, Zorro or Sherlock Holmes movie, historical dramas and, hmmm, I know there's something else...oh yeah, science fiction films. Colorization? Hissssss.... ((Ed: Who out there will admit to guilty pleasures? What are guilty pleasures? They are things that you thoroughly enjoy but are almost too embarrassed to admit to. One of mine is 50's sci-fi movies. My all time favorite—EARTH VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS! And I never miss THEM! and THE DEADLY MANTIS. Okay, step right up—who's next?))

Gene Roddenberry and Isaac Asimov—both of these men are responsible for helping to form my philosophy of life—learn to work together everyone, for Pete's sake (for all our sakes, actually) and learn to do it peacefully and to everyone's advantage. I'll miss them both dreadfully.

I swore off Creation Cons a few years ago when I realized that the best guests were saved for the tail end of each day, were only on for 45 minutes and that the huckster rooms were a media fan wasteland. Finding out that they may be trying to corner the guest star market comes as no surprise. I always thought that they were into cons for nothing but the money.

Ming Wathne: Hi hi hi hi! Have you ever seen the video version of METROPOLIS with the rinky-tink music? It is absolutely awful. It got to the point where I had to turn off the sound in the silent movie. Here's this grim, grim, grim movie and there's this piano tinkling merrily away in the background. I haven't seen the version with rock music yet. Any opinions, anyone?

Matthew Whitney: The ending of ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN wasn't really such a shock. Once the old knowledge was regained, Pern would have to modernize in one way or another. I was really hurt by the death of Master Robinton, though after all the poor man was put through, that was no surprise either. Back to the ending of the book—once the Pernese learned that those lights in the sky were spaceships in an earlier book, the handwriting was on the wall. Even so, I'd love to read more about how these people adjust to their "new" knowledge.

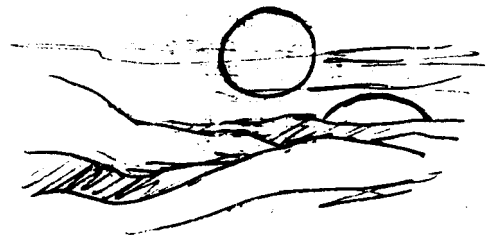
Will they try to contact Earth eventually? Think of the culture shock. I loved what Marion Zimmer Bradley did with culture shock in her Darkover books. Can you imagine what McCaffrey could do with this in her Pern books? It's a shame there won't be anymore.

Sally Syrjala: Interesting letter, even if it does conjure up images of controversies past. I agree that the stages of mythic development are for all of us, each in their own way. Using Han as your example was doubly fascinating, since he's always been my favorite SW character. I'd love to see this done for Luke, Leia and Anakin as well. What you say about using both the old and the new rather than just one or the other also sounds right to me. What's important is what works. People who refuse to accept the new or turn up their nose at the old are cutting themselves off from half of life.

B. J. Evans: Fascinating idea—Leia's realization that she knew Luke was her brother at least subconsciously. If this did awaken her awareness of her possible or probable Force talent, what will her future bring? Will she train with Luke's tutelage? Will she decide not to train due to her importance as a military and political leader? Will she and Han raise Jedi-to-be children with Uncle Luke constantly harping on their responsibility to the future? Will Luke combine old and new knowledge to form the new Jedi?

THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES—I can't understand why so many TV critics panned this show. They called it slow and plodding and uninteresting for children. I remember the kinds of shows I enjoyed as a child and, unless I was a weirder kid than I remember, I know damned well that kids should love this show. By the way, the last six episodes for this season will be shown later this year and thirteen episodes have been bought for next season.

It's 2:30 in the morning and I have to get up early to get this letter to the post awful hopefully in time for this issue of SE. Have pity, Cheree. I wanna be a contendah!



Catherine Churko  
590 Fort Washington Avenue #1M  
New York, NY 10033

May 28, 1992

Hello and Happy Late Spring/Mid-Summertime to all. Hope all are well (or at least hanging in there). Just missed getting a borrowed typewriter in time for this issue (and still glassy-eyed over picking out my first electronic--vs. electric--typewriter, with or without a minimal of WP functions) so a shorter letter will still be the order of the day. Apologies to all for shorter answers, if any.

Our Realm: Oh, well, back to my underdeadline LoC time. But I've been productively very busy, especially the past month. One thing I did was attend the National Stationery Show as an artist. This was my first "cold call" foray (vs. a few odd assignments via friends) as a professional illustrator/artist in eleven years.

The Show (Jacob Javits Center-NYC) was gigantic! At least it was the second visit there for me (but the previous DTP graphics show only took up 1/5 the space) so I didn't suffer total disorientation. I followed my sister's advice in several areas. The first was to go twice; the first time just to start scouting around and look for companies I knew about/was interested in. (Good thing, since I went through my self-denigration then--"what and I doing here?")

The next day I spent (after researching the show directory) time talking with sales reps (getting creative directors' names), occasional creative directors (smaller companies), and other artists who had booths with completed-to-sell greeting cards and stationery. Because of certain pre-conceived notions and other related worries, I can tell you intellectually/historically that it was a very big step--but I have yet to really feel it in my center.

(If there only was a SW con that big--2+ blocks square!)

Other Realms: All yoose Pern-ese fen--say no more. I haven't read the new book and now I know it's got a kicker ending. The ST:TNG episode (missed the title twice) with the injured Borg brought on ship was psychologically subtle and brilliant drama. [{"I, Borg."}] Also quite glad to see Young Indy renewed. Engrossing series.

SW Realms: Thank you, Judith Y., for your Star Awards efforts. And thanks, Cheree, for running the results and ballot. I look forward to hearing

about the SE gathering and awards ceremony.

Z.P.: Hey, thanks for the visual inspiration! As my continuing illo-stories/sequences occur, I also hope to get some of my ideas for Luke portraits into some zine ed's printed pages in the future. And Luke fen will enjoy both Z.P.'s and Melanie's Luke portraits (we get a feast) in TREMOR #6.

As for character designations, how about Principal Heroes/Villains, Secondary Hero/Villain (i.e., Wedge, Mothma, Fett, Needa, Jabba, etc.) where the fan writer adds a lot of history/motivations beyond what we see briefly (compared to the principals) on screen. Then Original Character applies to totally fan-created folk. (Of course, say Mothma might become a Principal Hero in the 1st trilogy and Luke (according to one old interview) a Secondary Hero in the (ahem) 3rd trilogy (filmwise--not all the other post-ROTJ stuff we've seen so far) but I'm sure readers could follow it by knowing which trilogy we were basically casting our work in). Just some spontaneous thoughts.

And to your (Luke) Fen Poll: Q1-A: #3 amended "fan writers are not currently up to their jobs". Q2-A: (Luke should get a...) "compassionate, smart, confident (but not "super human") human/humanoid, Force-sensitive woman". (Nuff said--grin)

Marti S.: Yes, just read "Revelations". Seems your writing just keeps getting smoother and smoother. Look forward to other tales.

A. G. and All: Thanks for the Germanic side of the Force. How about everyone who knows a language chip in with their versions, even just phonetically, if you can't write it out, especially non?-Roman alphabets? Or if you do write it in original alphabet and Cheree gets a batch, maybe she could have a little box with both original alphabet/phrase and phonetic pronunciation?

Somewhere there was a cute SW/Oz 2 or 3 part comic panel.

Ming W.: Family's doing pretty good. Never saw either zine.

Michelle: Hope you'll get time to "extract" the characters you've crafted out for your own stuff.

Ann B.: Welcome to SE!

Leanne W.: Yeah, I've read a few zany Extended Family stories.

Maggie N.: I like the SWzine fan commentary/history zine idea, especially as a fan arriving in the later "1/3". Gather ye pages and memories together, yes.

While my whole concept of illness/hereditary is/has been very altered, at the same time so many more years of being steeped in the usual concepts in our western/techno worldview keeps me partially tethered in it. I can hear your remarks on complexity of doubts of adult children (and felt a few echoes myself—thanks for the honesty).

By the time SE#32 arrives, I guess #4 DARK EMPIRE will have arrived. I'm enjoying it with a few quibbles (as you mentioned—a little more on the character vs. machines—though there have been a few particularly good exchanges). Kennedy draws conversing people with closed mouths half the time, but as a serious colorphile, I love his watercolors. Veitch has done some fairly complex original SF comics previously, with "dark/light" sides, personal and world/spiritual evolution. So I await the rest of this "take" on SW/Force matters.

Ah well, outta space. Until the next SE, be well, have fun. Creatively yours in the Force—the Furmeister.

## MediaWest

Jennifer Moore  
1204 S. Washington St. #301W  
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 9, 1992

I hope this letter makes it in time for the next issue of SE. I just want to get my 1/2 cents in so soon after MediaWest.

Speaking of the con, how did everyone like MediaWest? Did everyone like the new hotel? At first, I found the layout confusing, but once I got used to it, I felt the hotel was just perfect for the con. As for the rest of MediaWest—it was one of the best cons I have ever attended. The highlights for me were all the different SW panels, parties, and, most of all, meeting other SW fans. My reactions/impressions were: what a great group of people! If the goal at MediaWest was to unite SW fandom, I'd say with the genuine

and positive attitudes everyone displayed, SW fandom is well on its way to achieve it! Personally, I felt totally welcomed to the fandom ranks. Thank you all.

Now to get off/step down from the ol' soapbox. I have one question: what did everyone think of PATRIOT GAMES and DARK FORCE RISING? IMHO, PATRIOT GAMES started out a little slow, but it picks up and makes you want to see how it ends. All in all, a good movie. I'm just starting DARK FORCE, but I'm curious to see if anyone's read it yet.

That about does it for me so I'll sign off one more time. Shore Leave is my next con and there I should hear of some Creation Con developments...

Take care and it was great meeting you all!

## Unofficial Dinosaur

Mary K. Urhausen  
42 Three Mile Road  
Racine, WI 53402

You can consider this the Completely Unofficial Dinosaur of Fandom Review of MediaWest\*Con 12. It boggles the mind to realize that this was my tenth MediaWest, especially when I think of all the things that have happened in my life that can be directly attributed to my participation in fandom. Friends met and made, ideas conceived and debated, zines proposed and published—and all of it thanks to that great melting pot of media fan gumbo, MediaWest\*Con!

Back prior to May of 1983, I was a typical "closet fan" of sf and media fiction, completely unaware of what was out there on an organized basis. Although as a STAR TREK fan I realized there were other people like me who had written their own TREK stories for their own amusement, I had no idea SW fans and fans of other genre were also doing the same thing—and on such a grand scale. The first SW zine I encountered was EMPIRE REVIEW, put out by Ty Barrett. I submitted some stories, and she told me about MediaWest\*Con 3. "You've got to go," she told me. "They have hundreds of zines there." Hundreds of zines? I

haven't even gotten over the notation of fanzines in the first place, much less hundreds of them! And so I went, found myself in the middle of a fan's greatest "fool's paradise" (remember, this was the year ROTJ came out) and the rest has been history. At MWC 3, I met people like Sharon Saye and Samia Martz who became my good friends, as well as some of the "Big Name Fans" who had before only been names in zines to me. What an overload experience! I don't know how much I spent on zines that first year, but I can tell you I'll never forget how much I spent on art. (Must have been some of those "Jedi mind tricks...")

The yearly trek to Lansing became a Memorial Day tradition for me, a chance to renew friendships, pursue new interests, buy and sell zines, and generally just cut loose and act crazy with a bunch of like-minded people. We survived great fannish debates like the "Church of Ford v. the Cathedral of Luke", disappointments like the cancellation of ALIEN NATION, and the sheer fun of movies like LAST CRUSADE. Story ideas flew like confetti (some of those stories actually got written!) and, if the jokes sometimes got a little tacky—well, where else could we have gone to really let our hair down once a year?

Over the years, fandom has changed and shaped my life. The experience I gained in editing and publishing a zine helped me make the decision to change careers in midstream, and the support from my fannish friends has helped me through difficult times, like losing both of my parents. Willing to help put something back into the con which had given me so much, I've done stints at MediaWest in organization, registration, and the art auction. One memorable year (1990), I even did all the programming (and once was enough!). Next year will probably see me back at the art auction again, as well as involved in the Fan Q's (since I no longer publish a zine).

It was especially gratifying at MWC 12 to see the advent of the Star Awards. Many thanks to Judith Yuenger and Cheree and everyone else who did all of the work and put on a delightful luncheon/presentation ceremony. Ya done good, guys! SW fandom is not only not dead, it doesn't even look especially sick anymore. Congratulations to all of the winners, and I know we will see even more nominees and fiercer competition next year. Don't forget to write Dar Fisher with your ideas for SW programming while you're at it; she needs your ideas and more importantly your willingness to be on these panels to be able to schedule them. And don't forget the Fan Q's when

thinking of SW zines, writers, artists, etc. There's no reason why SW can't regain its footing in the Fan Q's as well as maintaining the Star Awards. And I want to add a special "hi" to Z. P. Florian. After all these years of wheedling art out of you, it was a delight to finally meet you! All this, and a fellow Sean Connery fan as well!

I'm sure there are lots of other "dinosaurs" out there who could tell stories pretty similar to mine. Fandom may not be a way of life, but it's certainly been more than a hobby. When I think of all the fandoms I've been involved with over the years, SW is the only one I've kept coming back to again and again (and I mean fandoms as different genre, not the actors—heaven knows there are some of them I've never lost interest in! And you guys know who you are!). So, if this is a "rebirth" of SW fandom, I'm glad and proud to be there for the delivery.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again at MediaWest\*Con 13.

## Tusken Raiders Doll

Debbie Kittle  
11521 Idlewood Rd.  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

May 1, 1992

Hello everyone. Congrats to all the 1990 Star Awards winners and the soon to be announced 1991 winners. I am looking forward to being present at the banquet and to meeting all my fellow SE'ers at MW!!

I've been enjoying the INDY CHRONICLES. They are sure nothing like the movies and a little slow at times and some of the episodes have even brought a tear to my eye, so I'll watch them. I really don't think it's that bad. However, only if the powers that be decide to bring it back. That's one thing that upsets me: the stupid ratings. It seems that every show I start to enjoy gets yanked.

There's a show on Saturday nights that's in the high 60's and they are renewing it for another year because it is a popular show with a certain



age group.

The death of Isaac Asimov came as a shock to me as I'm sure it did to everyone. I, unfortunately, didn't read a lot of his books but loved the FOUNDATION series as it was probably some of the first SF works I read. He will definitely be missed!

I tried to make it to the ST exhibit at the Air and Space Museum in March. We made it there but the tickets were sold out until the 3:15 show and we couldn't stay so I hope to make it there sometime soon. It will be there until September 7th.

I didn't watch any of the Oscars but read in the paper that GL won an award and then proceeded to say that he wants to finish current projects, like the IU CHRONICLES, and it will be another 5 years before the next SW movie. This is getting ridiculous. I was hoping with this new release of merchandise that it might be soon, not at the 20th anniversary of ANH's release. It seems we'll have to make do with what we have because I am sure not going to hold my breath!!

Now onto the letters:

Jacqueline: Perhaps Yoda was gambling that if Han and Leia had died on Bespin, that Luke would have completed his training and become a Jedi so his friends would not have died in vain. Perhaps Yoda knew for sure Leia would survive Bespin (with outside help). There are so many what ifs/perhaps, it's staggering.

More interesting bones you've rattled.

Z.P.: Thanks for the compliments on my Tusken Raider doll. (I made him to go along with my other 11-1/2 inch dolls I now have, which include Han, Luke, Chewie, Vader, Boba, Leia, R2 and 3PO. That stupid smiling Ken face never looked so good being wrapped like a mummy.)

Some of those "what ifs" you listed I'd almost be tempted to read just to see it done. I was chuckling as I read that list. Those would certainly make some interesting reading. I bet Sy and Jabba were an item at one point. Who knows, maybe they still are, wherever they ended up (in the afterlife) after the barge blow-up.

I really liked your Jabba description. I tend to agree with it. I'd like to meet/talk with a humanoid girl who did learn to like it.

In regards to your poll: Luke is not getting the girl because there are no decent ones around. IMO, Luke should get a smart, human/humanoid woman who should help him/he should help.

Marti: Sorry you won't be at MW this year. Maybe next?

Well, here's hoping you have an inferno of a

summer (or is that overkill?)

My winter was pretty lousy this year. Total snowfall was probably about 6 to 7 inches. That's hardly worth getting excited about. However, we did have heavy flurries after the First Official Day of Spring. Temperatures had been up and down throughout April (70 to 80 degrees for a day or so then frost warnings the following night). In fact, it was 83 degrees on April 11th. I melted!

So, I'll be "weatherly" depressed until October.

A.G.: I hope the information I sent you re: the SW Holiday Tape helps and that you were able to purchase one.

For anyone else interested: In one of my toy publications for March, I ran across an ad for recorded VCR tapes for sale. This gentleman has for sale copies of an original recording of the Holiday Special on VHS SP, complete with commercials for \$24.95 plus \$3 shipping. It is shipped in a hard protective cover and sent within 2 days. His name and address are: John G. Coyne, P.O. Box 516, Levittown, NY 11756. He sells collector to collector only.

I received my tape within a week of my order and am very happy with the purchase. I felt the price was definitely worth it. The sound quality is excellent. The picture quality is pretty good. There are a few picture rolls in the beginning and a couple throughout the program and there is also a slight color distortion at the very top of the screen but it in no way hinders the viewing. You can easily identify everyone and worth the price.

He also has for sale a "bootleg" ANH without Chapter IV titles and a few different camera angles. Price is the same. I'd like to purchase that tape in the near future.

If I could find a way, I'd go live on Hoth. That is definitely my kind of place. I'd only ask that there be at least one mall with a bookstore so I can keep up with the SF world.

Catherine: I'm beginning to love all of AMC's books, not just Pern, though that's all I used to read. She put out sequels (20 or so years later) to the Dinosaur Planet series so had to scramble to find the first ones. Then it was the Pegasus ones, now Doona and THE SHIP WHO SANG.

You and Z.P. should get along well. Some of the costumes she's made for her Luke dolls (as you can see from the picture in last issue) are really imaginative.

Ming: I don't think you're the only one out there who loves Tatooine-type weather. You can include A.G., Judith Yuenger and Marti in that

circle. Am looking forward to seeing you/rooming with you at MW and getting together with you after MW in my neck of the mountains.

Jennifer: I look forward to reading your first story!

If Ben had lived, I feel he would've continued to train Luke for a short period of time and then led him to Dagobah, conscious of the previous mistake he had made with Anakin. He'd probably be an advisor to the Alliance, his first duty to continue with Luke.

I think Ben's death motivated Luke to be more, to be a Jedi. If he had lived, I'm not sure the motivation would've been there. Would he have confronted Vader? He probably would've relied on Ben, maybe to the point of not confronting Vader at all. I feel Ben's death matured Luke in ways that helped guide him along the Jedi path.

Michelle: Agree with you that Jabba had to have great strength of mind (he was unaffected by Luke's Jedi mind tricks) and intelligence.

Being as immobile as he was, it would seem hard for him to monitor everything. Surely, there were employees who would scoop up some profits for themselves. How did he know about these? How did he stop it? He would have to make an example of them in order to continue to be one of the powerful crime lords in the Galaxy.

I think he had some "loyal and trusted friends" who were his eyes, ears and legs. Perhaps, Jabba in his younger days, saved their lives so they were honor-bound by a life-debt to serve him. Or he kidnapped part of their families so they would have to work for him or pay the consequences with their deaths. Or perhaps he supplied them with addictive drugs for their personal use so they'd have to be loyal to him if they wished to continue to get "high".

It seems very difficult for him to know everything about his business, lack of mobility and all.

Cheree: Re Leia's trip to Alderaan in ANH: There was no way DV could capture her while she was in hyperspace (unless said ship was incapable of hyperspace but I think that unlikely). So the Tantive IV (if that was the name of her ship in the movie) would have to come out of hyperspace for 1 or 2 reasons: 1) to pick up OWK on Tatooine or 2) mechanical problems.

It seems to me DV was waiting for her there so he either had placed a tracer/bug on board her ship since he's probably been suspicious of her for some time or he got to one of the highly placed crewmembers and 'persuaded' him/her to

talk.

When R2 and 3PO were in the escape pod and 3PO remarks that the damage doesn't look too bad from out there in reference to the Tantive IV, perhaps he's making reference to the damage that they had thought they had sustained upon leaving whatever planet prior to Tatooine and not what the Executor did to them. Perhaps DV planted a little sabotage device to go off at a certain time so he could catch them.

The address for Devra Langsam and Poison Pen Press is 627 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. At least that's the last address I have.

Sally: I really liked your explanation on why we should read old and new SW stories.

Tim: I'm glad you liked and used my title for the SW cross universe zine. Good Luck!

Leanne: No such luck seeing HF filming PATRIOT GAMES. Now, of course, my mom's best friend has a sister who moved to Annapolis so maybe he'll come back if they do another sequel.

Rumor has it I might be going to LA/Disney (again!) next year. Seeing Star Tours on the EuroDisney TV special makes me yearn for another ride (if not more than one). I'll have to see how the finances go.

The Wild Animal Park in San Diego was one place I wanted to hit but since we only had one day, we went to the Zoo instead and it was a great place. If I do get out West next year, I do want to hit the Wild Park.

B.J.: I also have invested in the four Indy books by MacGregor though have only had time to read the first one. Enjoyed it and felt he did a good job.

I can almost hear 3PO "spilling his guts" to keep from being torn apart at Jabba's if he knew anything. I'm not saying he would have but the possibility was there so perhaps Leia kept him in the dark as much as possible in ANH.

NO, I certainly DO NOT want the cure for my Corellian Fever (I saw that ST:TNG episode, too).

Maggie: That information on the Chapter 1 production notebook is certainly interesting considering GL is going to be waiting five years or so before we are to be "blessed" by his "promise" (if we get it at all).

Barbara: Just wanted to tell you I got those reports about the oil in PWS. Interesting reading. According to the authors, it would seem that the area is recovering rather quickly. "Our observations on the recovery of PWS have brought no real surprises. Our previous conclusions that biological recovery after the oil spill was well

advanced were reinforced during our latest visit (Nov. 1991). In addition, we see no reason to change our opinion on the positive role that the extensive cleanup measures and natural cleaning processes played in the recovery process."

Some little tidbits before I go: Just finished reading the third installment of DARK EMPIRE and I must say I am impressed. I loved the cover to #2. A really nice Luke and #3 was good as well. It looks like Fett might return. How?! It looks so hopeless for the Alliance as it seems the new Empire has bigger and better weapons to fight with. More interesting news is that they might go farther than six issues.

Just picked up the June 1992 issue of CINEFANTASTIQUE (I don't know why because the cover had really nothing of extreme interest to make me pick it up and flip through it) and there was an article entitled "Where's Star Wars 4?". At the top of the page it says, "We were promised sequels, so where's SW 4?. GL abandons the fans and the saga that made him rich". I enclosed a copy of it and hope Cheree has the room to put it in SE. If not and you can't find it at the comic book store in the back issue section, drop me a line and I'll be happy to send anyone a copy.

Anyway, the end of article goes like this: "Could it be that Lucas is just unsure of his own direction? With each succeeding STAR WARS film almost universally regarded as less satisfying than the last, perhaps Lucas is not "uninterested," but merely timid about getting up to bat? It could be that Lucas is not the grand storyteller he makes himself out to be, and worse, also lacks the humility and good sense of a Gene Roddenberry to let other, more gifted hands shape his artistic legacy.

"Lucas, however, maintains that he just doesn't care anymore. So, all you SW fans out there, the ones who spent over \$1 billion in movie tickets, and untold billions on other SW merchandise that enriched Lucas, be sure to keep buying the novelizations, comic books and role playing games."

Wouldn't it be nice if GL handed the reins over to someone else? The article was quite pessimistic about the next chapter. I think GL has abandoned us. Would boycotting all GL merchandise, not just SW, move him at all? Unfortunately, I don't want to miss out on anything. Well, here's hoping for some good news by the next issue. Hope all of you enjoy your summer because I won't. Looking forward to MW and Winter!!! Fly Casual In The Force!

May 3: I was hoping to get this mailed out yes-

terday but it didn't work out so am able to include the fact that I just got back from the ST exhibit today. It was great! If you get a chance, GO!! They had models, costumes, weapons, scripts, scenes from all the shows, Spock's ears, a console from the bridge, a "working transporter pad" with Kirk, Spock and McCoy and could get your picture taken there, and the Captain's chair you could sit in. I am going to go again before it leaves Sept. 7th.

## Non-Human Jedi

Maggie Nowakowska  
2330 Federal Avenue E.  
Seattle, WA 98102

April 13, 1992

SE arrived at a great time—spring equinox, when I always take a Friday off work to make a long weekend of heavy physical labor in the garden. This year it was two raised beds, 4 x 8 x 2 and 8 x 8 x 2, which means too much drainage material and 5 cubic yards of dirt to shovel and dump. I got 3/5 of it finished by Saturday afternoon and was able to soak long and hot in a tubful of herbed and oiled water, happy with my newly-arrived copy of SE. Perfect.

Congratulations to all the Star Awards winners! It is a special thrill to discover that something one has created has touched so many people so deeply that they come together to vote public acclamation for one's work. Enjoy it! And thank you all for sharing the wealth of your imaginations.

Hokay, a quick aside from SW into other Lucas realms. Here's one vote of enthusiasm for THE YOUNG INDY CHRONICLES! I have developed an intense fondness for this series that transcends the fantastic production values and excellent presentation of Prof. Jone's development. This is the kind of show I lusted after when a kid, a show that attempted to actually put me back in

time rather than just casting a historical gloss over actors who still looked like the people outside my door. I know that after each show I would have sat for hours, surrounded by my encyclopedias, hunting down the clues and allusions. What the hey—I'm still doing that today! Susan and I went right out and bought a copy of *THE GUNS OF AUGUST* by B. Tuchman, just to brush up on our WWI history.

Sean Flannery is doing an incredible job of playing a young Harrison-Ford Indiana Jones, and IMO Lucas is doing a great job of creating that young Indy. I do think, though, that we're seeing the Jones that Lucas had always envisioned, rather than the Jones that Spielberg and Ford saw...if I correctly remember the reported conflicts those gentlemen had regarding Indy's character. I recall Lucas wanting Indy to have a bit more class than he demonstrated in the films, and the background given in *YIJC* certainly provides for such smoothness. Also, Susan and I both have enjoyed the presentation of Henry, Sr., especially his relationship with Anna (if mom is Welsh and dad has a Welsh name but a Scots accent, then we can probably assume that dad is what Susan's family [very Welsh] calls "S'welsh", and place half the family origins in southwest Scotland). I can easily see Indy developing an unreal image of a "perfect woman/relationship" from the way his parents got along, combined with losing his mother at a most vulnerable age of 13. Erik Fromm, in *THE ART OF LOVING*, has some interesting things to say about fixations on deal loves in the teen years and how they can distort one's adult relationships.

What any of this has to do with *SW* is this: *YIJC* has banished my most serious doubts about whether Lucas could actually handle the task he set for himself in writing the story of *SW* 1, 2 and 3. Emotional depth has never been his strong point, but he is definitely growing. Maybe all the years of waiting for the first trilogy will be worth it if Lucas has indeed needed this time to be able to put into words what he has learned from the time spent, and, in his own words, from his daughters.

J. Taero: The question of private ownership in the *SW* galaxy has always been a good one, and one all too often slipped by in written visions of the Empire/Alliance. Until Lucas states just how involved the Empire is on a local level, I suppose the field is wide open to individual assessments of the same. That Bail Organa carries the title of Viceroy, which I think is an appointed position in our societies, implied someone

able to bestow such power. Is the title a new one, imposed by the Empire upon a royal line (hence, Princess Leia), or a leftover from days of royal sanction, with mom as the carrier of royal status to her children, or was it a more sophisticated interpretation of government with the power/title being granted by the Alderaani people? Etc., etc.

The problem of Lars' land is as complicated, especially if we consider the possibility that he's renting from the Empire. If letting Luke use his father's family name seems odd for a babe in hiding, wouldn't hiding that child in an Imperial colony, with a probable Imperial census, compound the issue? Or do we speculate Imperial use of numbers, with disinterest in names? Or follow the old rabbit in the briar patch line of hiding the kid in the most obvious place?

Hey, maybe "there'll be hell to pay" simply because he needs to pay protection money to someone like Jabba...protection from the Tusken raiders...or from the outlaws themselves?

Intriguing ideas about nonhuman Jedi, and Yoda as the sole trainer of humans. Jumping on the notions, I passed them along to a few friends who promptly shot me down, objecting that the idea that the Jedi fell with the incoming humans implies a grave inadequacy/lack of complexity of either the Jedi or the Humans, which is insulting to either group. The reasoning I was given is (I'm fishing for arguments back, here): If the Jedi philosophy was so limited that what we know of the multiple levels of human behavior could so readily contaminate it, the implication is that the nonhumans were not as complex as humans; or, that humans are wretched. If it was a necessary task of the Jedi to maintain the peace for 1,000 generations, generations before humans were involved, then that nonhuman sentience must also run the gamut of saints to sinners. And, if we are talking about a sophisticated understanding of the universe, a part of physics actually, then one or the other group, or both, probably would be insulted by such assertions.

I really like the idea of culture clash, though. I am increasingly persuaded that what conquers a culture—in our history at least—is technological (not psychological or moral) superiority, and can see how a drive, among humans, to make technology pre-eminent, could upset galactic social balances. Perhaps Palpatine took advantage of both cultures and used Anakin as his bridge?

Z.P.: Believe me, it doesn't take any work at all for me to picture Han in a fancy codpiece—

or Luke in Skywalker-blue Speedoes, thanks to that awful Spider Woman movie Hamill made... Why should the guys have all the fun with Leia in brushed-bronze bra and g-string?

As for Luke's sex life, he hasn't "gotten a girl" in the saga because that part of his life isn't important to the story Lucas is telling; Han and Leia are handling the explorations of that aspect of growing up. IMHO, Luke is probably one of those people who comes to a sexual life a little later than most and then is very private about it. I can well imagine him showing up one day with a woman who complements him who no one's met before this, and who is as much a private person as Luke is. After all, Skywalker is not the most demonstrative person around when heavy emotions are involved, as evidenced by his reaction at the Lars homestead after the Empire hit. Hamill has said that he wanted to react as he would have—loud and angry—but Lucas said no, that's not how he imagined Luke. Sure, on fun stuff and when high on blowing up Death Stars, he can be as bouncy as anyone, but with what really matters, I think the matured Luke we see at the end of JEDI is truer to the man he always to be: gentle and patient with Jawas pawing his speeder in Mos Eisley, with walking mushrooms who tear apart his camp on Dagobah, or with armed and carnivorous teddy bears.

(As a kid growing up constantly teased about his interests and enthusiasms by his peer group and discouraged in the same by his uncle, he probably learned that quieter is safer. From the people I've known who have adopted that philosophy, it isn't easy to change...or even to want to change to a more exuberant expression of emotion. Most of them are very happy with the fact that they don't "wear their hearts on their sleeves.")

For me, Luke is a river that runs very deep when it comes to love...and though his overflows are probably mighty, I imagine the response they inspire in others is more respect than giddy enthusiasm.

Marti Schuller: I agree that one possible outcome of Luke's encounter with the Emperor could be sterility, but would it be permanent? Males produce new sperm all their lives, so you would have to postulate that the generative organs were damaged...but if those, why not other tender tissue and nerves, sort of an "if the gonads, then the brain cells" logic? Any health professionals out there? Does a heavy dose of electricity render a person infertile?

B. J. Evans: I like the Indy books, too,

although I certainly have heard scathing reviews of them from people who find the Indy in them "wimpy". I don't think so, but then, I don't think Indiana Jones is such a shining heroic character, either; just interesting enough to enjoy watching on film and in books. So, I like his contradictions in both places.

I think the idea that one needs faith in the Force to work with it scares a lot of people who take that to mean that it's a religious artifact. I don't think so, rather that it occupies a level of physics that is only attainable to our level of sentient life when enough of us notice it (sort of a variation on the Heisenberg Principle), or when a significant number focus our kind of energy on it. The best analogy I can think of at the moment is the way a person can examine an experience, or dream, or troublesome exchange with a friend, and not be able to figure out the meanings/implications by herself, only to find it all becoming quite clear, even obvious, as soon as the experience is related to another person's attention. By stepping out of the loop, by becoming both 1st and 3rd person to your experience and by engaging the attention of a 2nd party, even if that 2nd party is passive, you change the patterns and make them more visible.

Maybe the patterns of the Force are beyond the ability of our corporal existence/energy to experience initially; maybe we need at least 2 sentient life forms engaged in the exercise. Maybe the bottom line reason Palpatine had to get rid of the Jedi as quickly and by as much surprise as an inside traitor could engender was not that they had "failed", but because he had to destroy their mutual focus on the Force with a swift stroke if he were to succeed in his darkside powers. Or, maybe the Jedi were weak because the greater galactic population had become apathetic over the Force; maybe Palpatine's genius was to recognize this before the Jedi did themselves; maybe they recognized it at the same time, but with Skywalker's practical insight, Palpatine was able to prevail.

In esoteric studies, there is an argument between those who believe that power shared is power weakened and those who believe that power shared is power multiplied. It's a fundamentally different way of looking at the universe (in our culture, it seems to me that the former idea is relegated to accepted masculine myths of power while the latter is encouraged in the feminine assumptions), and can be quite divisive in a group.

For myself, this kind of exploration for the fall of things as they were is more intriguing than simply replaying old Terran political scenarios, more science fictiony if you will, although I suppose it's more along the line of metaphysical fiction...

Matthew Whitney: Whenever I've read about writers putting together a book from a movie, they are working from a shooting script (ref: STAR WARS script, Rev. 4th Draft, 3/15/76; book has copyright 12/76). Since the name Lars is in the SW shooting script, I suppose Lucas is responsible for the name. It's a good point to make, the reference to household gods. It got me thinking along a totally new line, namely, what if Kenobi isn't the great mastermind of baby-hiding we've all been making him out to be?

What if, for all his involvement with the family, Kenobi was simply a good friend, a powerful friend, yes, but not the one making the final, familial, moral decision? To look at things logically, would any of us feel we have the right to tell another person's child that the man he thinks is his father isn't? Suppose we know that his natural father beat his mother when she was pregnant so she divorced him and the man he knows as daddy took her in, saw her through the birth, and raised him? I'm not asking whether he should know...but is it anyone's but the mother's place to tell him? And what if that abusive daddy was a friend, maybe someone you introduced the mother to in the first place?

Maybe Beru is mom's sister, willing to take the boy because she's childless. Maybe Ben got involved with the family because his brother married Beru, because his good buddy Anakin ended up in love with his brother's wife's sister. He'd be up to his eyeballs in what happened, but would he be the person to make the final decisions? Suppose mom said, This is it; this is what I've decided to do; will you help? Out of guilt, Kenobi says yes, but Mom and the Organa's and the Larses, are the ones with the personal and family involvements. They say, the girl stays here, the boy goes there; and no, you can't give the lightsaber to the boy. "Your father wanted you to have this, but your uncle wouldn't allow it..." That can be an indication that Lars has more authority in the situation than his brother (for whatever reasons—all that is important is that Ben and Owen agree that Owen has the right to tell Ben "no").

Maybe the most Kenobi could do was sit and wait and hope that the boy's Forceful gifts, or whatever, brought him to his uncle's brother. Maybe

his skirting the issue as he does is the only way he can see to hinting at the truth while not betraying, completely, his belief that the ultimate decision lies with Mom and blood relatives.

It's a possibility. It's a moral call and a terrible one.

All of which led me to another question: why is it so common to assume that just because Luke and Leia inherited Anakin's Forceful gifts that they'll inherit his moral instabilities? A kid can inherit her parent's skill at math, but that doesn't mean she'll be brought up on embezzelling charges like dad. Or his mom's artistic skills, but that doesn't mean he'll automatically illustrate religious tracts, like she does; he may well go out and photograph pornography.

A. G. Steyn and Z.P. and Ming: I am never going to summarize anymore story ideas. Promise. If anyone wants an outline to work from her/himself, here goes:

1. Death Star tapes never make it to Tatooine; Tarkin blows up Alderaan anyway; Vader claims Leia as a warprize (Organa is dead and she is, after all, the daughter of his old love...and probably looks like her since she sure doesn't look like daddy); Palpatine lets him get away with this dangerous trinket of old Anakin's life because Palpatine loves the idea that Mon Mothma and all the rebel honchos probably are vomiting all over the place because of it.

2. Back on Tatooine, Luke goes about his lonely life, slipping away to Mos Eisley more and more often. Whilst there one day, he is bragging about his piloting to a bored spacer and is overheard by another spacer whose co-pilot is down and out, having just taken a shot meant for him, and who accordingly grabs the nearest, easiest chump he can find to take Chewie's place at the Falcon's controls—now.

3. Once Luke gets over his shock at being shanghied (about 30 seconds after he finally sees Tatooine disappearing behind him), he slips into Han's personal orbit and starts sending home exotic, "See you someday" gifts to Ye Olde Homestead.

4. Within the following year, Kenobi learns that the bird has flown, that Alderaan is kaput, and decides that the only way to counteract suicidal depression is to go out in space after the kid. By this time, though, Luke is thoroughly acclimated to the smuggler's life and the Falcon's trio is a hot number amid those who defy Imperial customs. When Kenobi finds the spacers in Mos Eisley (the Force has an ironic sense of humor in

such matters), Skywalker and Han could be the sibling act, from the breadth of Luke's spacer wits down to the tip of his custom blaster strapped low on his thigh. Also, from their almost preternatural abilities at acting in unison. By tapping into the native Forcefulness Kenobi feels cascading off the duo, and by leaning on the old family connections line, he gets himself into the Falcon--and off plant at Luke's side. Much good it does him, but at least he's on talking terms with the boy when the crew drops him off somewhere he thinks he can link up with what's left of the Rebel Alliance.

5. Unfortunately for anyone's future plans, the Empire's success in conquest means it needs ever-increasing troops and, one day, Luke gets caught up by a press gang.

6. This pisses Solo off since he had been ripe for settling down when Luke met him, and if not with a mate (since he hasn't met spacer-taming Leia), a little brother will do for familiar urges. But--what's a guy to do against the Empire? His and Kenobi's paths cross again, but all either of them can do is bitch and moan. Solo knows Luke is doomed; he's all too aware of just how far orders go when up against Luke's sense of improvisation. Ben manages a mutter that he certainly hopes Luke doesn't end up on the Dark Lord's ship. Solo sighs and observes that, at least then, the end will be quick and merciful.

7. Of course, Luke has ended up on the Dark Lord's ship. And he does manage to survive, probably by unconsciously tapping into the Forceful currents that swirl around Vader and mixing them with his own native intelligence/Forceful gifts and the spacer sense of opportunism he learned from Han.

8. And, of course, a task he's called upon to complete near the Dark Lord's quarters brings him into Leia's sphere. By now, she's pretty hip to the Force, at least as much as necessary to survive Vader's moods. Here mere existence on board--oh, the rumors that swirl below decks among the troops!--entices Luke; his Forceful vibrations catch her eye; and, eventually, they get together one day when Vader is not on ship.

9. Now, Leia is not stupid and neither is Luke and she teaches him the tricks she knows to get around and he builds on that and his spacer's knowledge and by the time Vader discovers them, which he certainly does, Luke is a most intriguing morsel to someone eager to shake off Palpatine's yoke and take over himself. Especially when he learns the audacious troop's name. With two major

inducements (I won't kill you and you can keep the woman--a sentimental touch here as Vader imagines recapturing his lost love through her daughter by Organa and his son--nor that he tells them this) added to the spacer's maxim: make do with what you've got, Luke is easy to persuade to stay upship.

10. About a year later, Kenobi has a Real Bad Feeling about the galactic rumors that Vader has acquired a little Sith to really be Lord Of. He ties up with Solo once again who knows the basis of the rumors from the spacer's angle: the last thing smugglers need is an Imperial hip to their secrets. And he knows it's Luke; he's heard the descriptions from those who have crossed Skywalker's path. And, boy, you oughta see the female he's got decorating his arm!

11. Just a tad bit unnerved by this last news, Kenobi persuades Han to help him make a suicide intercept of Vader's activities, aiming for Luke, not Vader (didn't work with Vader last time, after all). (No, I don't know how he convinces Han--I'm not writing the story, remember?) What Kenobi doesn't know is that Luke and Leia have figured out their familiar relationship to each other and to Vader and have made a vow to stop Vader and Palpatine themselves, even if it means beating the two at their own game (after all, it's the only Forceful game Luke knows and, as for Leia, after the life she's been living the last few years, her idealistic goals--and personality like Dad's--are likely to have acquired rather interesting shades of moral rationalization).

12. So. Kenobi meets up with Luke, tries to convince him that there are indeed other ways of using the Force than Vader/Palpatine's ways, arguing against Skywalker's sense of Greek tragedy--he'll go down in flames for his sins, but he'll take V/P with him--Leia, too, for that incestual matter. Ben protests the Forceful waste and Han can't believe anyone would let that fantastic woman...

13. Hokay, the scene is set: Will Luke let them escape their impossible situation, thereby exposing his true intentions to Vader? Will he try, in his twisted sense of morality, to use Kenobi's hopes of turning him to the Light as a power source against V/P; and will he use Han's attraction to Leia in similar ways? What happens when Leia discovers that she actually likes that old spacer buddy of Luke's? Will Leia herself use Han to further her and Luke's cause of redeeming their elder's screwups?

14. Hell, I don't know!



Catriona Campbell  
19 Eastern Crescent  
Kilbirnie, Ayrshire  
KA25 6JH  
Scotland

April 16, 1992

Hello, all! At last I have gathered my courage, grabbed a minute or two and decided it was time to add my voice to SE. Marti Schuller would probably say, "about time, too!" Hi, Marti!

For those who do not know me--and that's most of you, I guess--please allow me to introduce myself. From my address above, you can see my difficult to say Gaelic name; most folks call me Treena or Trina, which is much easier! I'm a 26 year old Scots lass from the literature-rich west coast area of Ayrshire. Our national poet and bard, Robert (Rabbie) Burns hailed from these parts.

I've been a SW fan since the first movie hit our local flea pits, which I guess would be late 1977. At first, I had a massive crush on Mark Hamill--well, I was only 11 years old at the time! --which over the years has mellowed into deep affection for Luke Skywalker and his friends and the galaxy in which they dwell. I am the ONLY SW fan I know of from this area which is pretty "bogus" to say the least...

Thankfully, I have some good friends from the U.S., primarily Marti Schuller who introduced me to fan fiction and fanzines and to whom I will be eternally grateful!

I am not a stranger to SE. I have been receiving the zine on and off for a couple of years. I would like to have been a more regular reader and contributor but my life has had some pretty dramatic and traumatic ups and downs, especially this past year. (These events have also interrupted my writing, which has only now started to come together again.) However, I believe things may be settling down now and I hope I can become a regular "speaker." I know I have missed out on several interesting topics which I would have liked to add my opinions to--particularly the

issue of "terrorism" which you all discussed months and months and months ago! But that's my loss.

Okay, that's quite enough of me! I want to ask a couple questions, which I hope, have not been asked before (unlikely, I know). Firstly, has anyone noticed TWO different versions of ANH? I don't mean different story, but different dialogue, different sound effects. For an example, the Death Star battle. Luke cannot shake off a T.I.E., in one version he says, "Blast it, Biggs, where are you?" In the other, he says, "Blast it, Wedge, where are you?" I have copies of both versions on tape, so I hope it's not a product of an active imagination. I once wrote to the Fan Club asking why/how this happened but they couldn't tell me. (*Ed: I have personally seen three slightly different versions. The most striking difference I can think of is the scene in the Death Star control room where R2D2 is running the specs, searching for the tractor beam. In two versions, there is only the sound of equipment until Obi-Wan says, "I don't think you boys can help." In the third version, 3PO narrates what is being displayed on the screen.*)

Secondly, did I hear correctly? Has Macaulay Culkin been signed up for the next movie? Or has the BBC been telling us "Porkies" (as in Porky Pies--lies!)? This information came straight from the lips of Britain's top movie critic, Barry Norman (this is the guy who had a fight with Robert DiNiro!). I've had nightmares since! I think my initial reaction was "That's not true! That's impossible!" Surely he's not to play a young Luke...?

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against the kid. I quite liked HOME ALONE (is that a confession or what?). I just don't want the SW universe to dive into the depths of cute kids and cheesy, sentimental hogwash! (The Ewoks were enough, thank you very much!)

Well, I don't want to take up too much space on my first letter. I'll only say I look forward to "talking" to you all and I wish everyone well.

And now for some light music...





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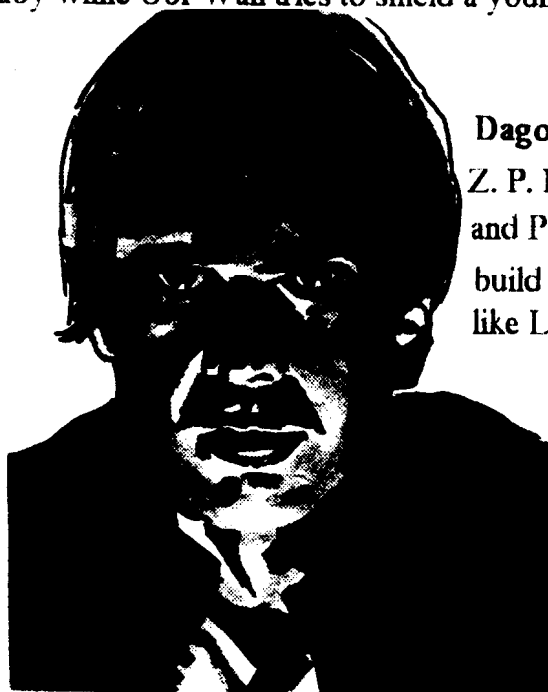
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# ANOTHER ISKY... 2

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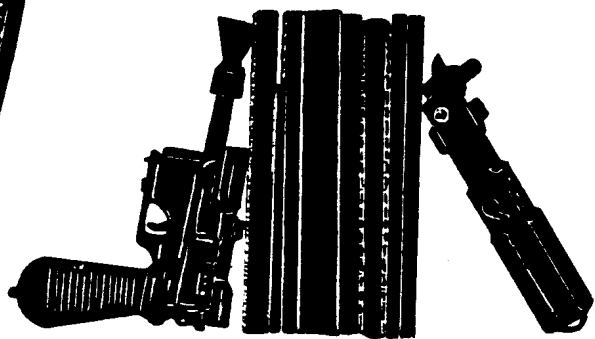
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ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE. A new SW fanzine now accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art. Stories from all timeframes are encouraged, with G to R ratings. No slash or gratuitous violence will be accepted. Yeah, I know, I should have done this one a long time ago. New writers welcome! Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ANOTHER SKY... #3. Now accepting submissions for this issue. Please write for guidelines. Positively no slash or Han-starring fiction accepted. For info, SASE Melanie Guttierrez, 6017 West End Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, or Lorrie Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Marerro, LA 70072-9998.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #7. "Designated Hitter" by Carol Hines-Stroede, illoed by Nancy Stasulis. One of the legendary teams of SW fanfic is back together in this new chapter of Carol's Darth Vader/Alan Patronis series. Also, stories by Marti Schuller, Veronica Wilson, Catriona Campbell and Carolyn Gollledge. Seeking high quality fiction, poetry, and art. Probable publication winter 1992/93. For submissions guidelines or info, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #3. Looking for artists, poems, stories, puzzles, anything in the SW universe. Main characters, peripherals, new ones as long as they stay within the outline of SW. Can be planet history, social setup, etc. Can be G to R, all submissions subject to edit. Send outline or story to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

FIELD STUDIES #3. Is anyone interested in contributing Indiana Jones stories to a new issue of this all-Indy zine? With the new "Young Indy" series on ABC, the field is wide open! Adult stories are okay (no slash, though). Originality encouraged! If interested, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

GALACTIC CASTAWAYS. A serious all-fiction LOST IN SPACE fanzine looking for stories with the feel of the early first season—in short, the way Allen should have done the show! I'm looking for serious fiction, humorous stories (no slapstick,

please), stories that blend action with characterization. Submissions should use the entire cast, not just Will, Dr. Smith and the Robot! Explorations of relationships between the members of the extended family are also welcome. Anticipated publication date—early Spring 1992. Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER. A STAR TREK genzine now open for submissions. We're looking for short to medium-long fiction, poetry and filksongs from the original series, the movie universe, and TNG. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome, but no slash will be accepted. Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #7. Now accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art. No slash, please. Send SASE for submission guidelines if new writer or if you have a PC (if material can be sent on a disk, you have my undying gratitude). Deadline sometime in the Spring '93. Melea Fisher, 1902 So. Hwy 121 #1417, Lewisville, TX 75067.

STAR TREK NEXT GEN ZINE, as yet unnamed, is accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art. No same sex. Send SASE for submission guidelines. Deadline, April '93. Mark Fisher, 1902 So. Hwy 121 #1417, Lewisville, TX 75067.

## ***OTHER WORLDS***

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES is looking for copies of ROGUE'S GALLERY #2, DARK LORD (Swedish version) #6, and OLD REPUBLIC READER #2 and #3, good xerox or originals. Contact Ming Wathne, Curator - Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Postage charges will be returned for authentic information on availability.

FANZINE LIBRARY needs donations of out of print

zines. Complete sets of SIMON & SIMON INVESTIGATIONS and TIME WINDS have been donated by their editors, but we need more—V, UNCLE, STAR TREK, BEAUTY AND BEAST, and multi-media. For info on how we operate, SASE Ming Wathne, Curator—Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

FOR SALE: UK quad film posters: SW 1978 with Oscar flash, excellent condition, folded - \$125; ROTJ 1983 without Ewok, excellent condition, folded - \$60; ROTJ teaser, excellent condition, rolled - \$60. No dealers unless prepared to pay my prices, please. Wendy Scott, 9 St. Anthony's Road, Kettering, Northants. NN15 5HT, England. Tel.: 0536 520167 - there is an answering machine.

LUKE & LEIA T-SHIRTS. Double portrait in original art by Cheree Cargill. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. Available in L, XL and XXL sizes. \$12.50 FC (\$13.50 XXL sizes). Please state first and second color preferences. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE T-SHIRTS. The following SE shirts are still available: one X-Large (navy), and two Larges (1 royal blue and 1 navy). Design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$12.00 first class mail. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kathryn Agel  
9-11 Ayres Court  
Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510

Auriette Hahn Lindsey  
7222 Anna Avenue #12  
Maplewood, MO 63143

Dan and Tina Bentrup  
5325 Browns Gap Road  
Knoxville, TN 37918

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***SOUTHERN ENCLAVE***  
Cheree Cargill  
457 Meadowhill Drive  
Garland, TX 75043